

STATE OF THE

Arts



Winter 2019 ■ Montana - The Land of Creativity

Providing information to all Montanans through funding by the National Endowment for the Arts and the State of Montana

Governor's Arts Awards: Joy, humor, enduring respect

By Cinda Holt

The Governor's Arts Awards ceremony took place the second Friday in December and was filled with holiday good cheer. As people arrived from all around the state they were greeted by a string trio performing beautiful music in the Old Supreme Court Chambers at the Capitol, courtesy of Helena Symphony's musicians Stephen Cepeda, Garion Holian and Linda Kuhn.

It was great to see so many past award recipients who came to honor the new inductees, including "dueling cowboy poets" Wally McRae and Paul Zarzyski. In attendance were Dana Boussard, Corky Clairmont, Debra Magpie Earling, Judy Erickson, William Kittredge, Tom McGuane, Laura Millin (Missoula Art Museum), David Nelson, Rick Newby, Larry Williams, M.J. Williams and Pat Williams. Over the 20 years that I have been producing this ceremony, I am reminded that it is a remarkable community of world-class talent that gathers together to celebrate each other. We are a lucky state.

After remarks from Tatiana Gant, Corky Clairmont and Lt. Governor Mike Cooney, the six honorees' nominators made their introductions:

Tom McGuane for Rick Bass, John Keegan for Monte Dolack, Arni Fishbaugh for Jackie Parsons, Laura Millin for Jaune Quick-To-See Smith, Abigail Hornik for Kevin Red Star and Robert Stubblefield for Annick Smith.

This was a cheerful crowd and right off the bat Rick Bass brought down the house when he opened his remarks with, "It's so nice to be here. The last time I was in this building I was in handcuffs." Pat Williams laughed so hard I was afraid he was going to fall off his chair.

In addition to the joy and humor of the ceremony, there was also enduring respect and acknowledgment between the honorees of how grateful they were to be



Governor's Arts Awards recipients with ceremony speakers, nominators and Montana Arts Council members. Front row (left to right): Honorees Rick Bass, Monte Dolack Jackie Parsons, Jaune Quick-To-See Smith, Kevin Red Star and Annick Smith. Back row: Corky Clairmont, Cinda Holt, Liz Albers, Larry Williams, Lynne Montague, Mark Kuipers, Jean Steele, Tatiana Gant, Sean Falcon Chandler, Lt. Gov Mike Cooney, Tom Cordingley, JP Gabriel, Jay Pyette, Robert Stubblefield, Laura Millin, Anne Appleby, Arlene Parisot, Tom McGuane, Tracy Linder, Arni Fishbaugh, John Keegan, GB Carson and Renée Westlake.

(Photo by Jerry Kozak)

counted among that group of six people. Annick finished up the honorees' remarks in her Hungarian Jewish native tongue with "kezét csókolom" – "I kiss your hand."

Montana and its magnificent landscape was also a presence during the ceremony. Every honoree took a moment to express their connection to the land, its power and impact, and the creativity that comes from it. I'm sure everyone felt the way I did while listening to these honorees – that is, really grateful to live here.

Photos & Profiles, pages 5-7 & 12

SO LONG CINDA!

Heading off to retirement

By Cinda Holt

Business Development Specialist

My favorite quote in the whole world came to me from a stately and elderly southern gal (so you must say it with a deep southern accent): "You can't wring your hands and roll up your sleeves at the same time."

I love that quote because it is played out each and every time I engage with my fellow Montanans around the work we undertake together to support artists and the arts in our communities and statewide.

Over the 20 years I have had the good fortune to work for the Montana Arts Council, I have witnessed, and been inspired by, a multitude of hard-working Montanans in the form of boards of directors and staff of arts organizations, council members and my fellow MAC staffers, funders and citizens who volunteer and provide support for the arts.

Everyone I've encountered was willing to "roll up their sleeves." This work, of supporting and sustaining a nonprofit arts endeavor, is not for the faint of heart. Artists and arts organizations' dreams are always ambitious, and the resources required to make those dreams come true are always scarce. To succeed, a formula of entrepreneurialism + innovation + chutzpah must be present.



Lori Pourier, director of First Peoples Fund, Governor's Arts Award recipient Jackie Parsons and Cinda in Browning celebrate Jackie's First Peoples Fund Community Spirit Award.

I am grateful to have crossed paths with all of you who embody that formula and take up this challenge. I wish you an abundance of success in your futures so that no hand-wringing will be required!

Blackfeet artist draws on tradition for Eighth Generation blanket design

By Kristen Inbody,
Reprinted with permission
from the Great Falls Tribune

Blackfeet artist John Isaiah Pepion drew on tradition, a modern edge and the beauty of the Montana sky for his design for a new wool blanket that's part of an entrepreneurship-for-artists project.

His "Lightning Horse" wool blanket is produced by Eighth Generation of Seattle, the first Native-owned company to produce wool blankets.

Pepion is part of the company's Inspired Natives Project, which aims to provide economic opportunities and business education for Native artists.

"The whole thing is the art is from inspired Natives ... and actually pays the artists for the artwork," Pepion said. "Nowadays there's a lot of cultural appropriation, people taking our designs and making money off of them. They're not asking us or getting input."

Pepion, who lives on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation, is the only Plains Indian in the four-year program, which he began in the spring.

"It's a huge responsibly but an honor as well to represent the Plains and the Blackfeet," he said.

His design pays tribute to Plains Indian horse culture. Pepion said that was important to him for his first blanket.

"It's still such a major part of our lives on the Plains today," he said. "The Plains Indian horse culture is alive and well."

With the loss of the buffalo, artists turned from hides to ledger paper. Pictographic art has been in his family for hundreds of years, and Pepion continues the ledger art tradition, with his own modern twists. That's reflected in the design, too.

See Blackfeet Artist, page 8



Montana Legislature convenes Jan. 7

Montana Democrats and Republicans from both chambers caucused in Helena Nov. 14 and decided on leadership for the upcoming session. Leadership for the 69th Legislative Session, which convenes Jan. 7, is as follows:

Senate

President of the Senate: Sen. Scott Sales (R-Bozeman)
President Pro-Tempore: Sen. Mark Blasdel (R-Kalispell)
Majority Leader: Sen. Fred Thomas (R-Stevensville)
Majority Whips: Sens. Cary Smith (R-Billings) and Steve Fitzpatrick (R-Great Falls)
Minority Leader: Sen. Jon Sesso (D-Butte)

Minority Whips: Sens. JP Pommichowski (D-Bozeman) and Margie MacDonald (D-Billings)

Committee on Committees, which makes all of the committee and committee chair appointments in the Senate, is helmed by Senators Dee Brown (R-Hungry Horse), David Howard (R-Park City), Cary Smith (R-Billings), Jeff Welborn (R-Dillon), Gordy Vance (R-Belgrade), Ryan Osmundson (R-Buffalo)

House

Speaker of the House: Rep. Greg Hertz (R-Polson)
Speaker Pro Tempore: Rep. Wylie Galt (R-Martinsdale)

Majority Leader: Rep. Brad Tschida (R-Missoula)

Majority Whips: Reps. Becky Beard (R-Elliston), Dennis Lenz (R-Billings), Derek Skees (R-Kalispell), and Seth Berglee (R-Joliet)

Minority Leader: Rep. Casey Schreiner (D-Great Falls)

Minority Whips: Reps. Shane Morigeau (D-Missoula), Kim Abbott (D-Helena), and Denise Hayman (D-Bozeman)

Minority Caucus Chair: Rep. Laurie Bishop (D-Livingston)

To find out who your legislators are and how to contact them, keep track of the legislative calendar, read bills and listen to or watch hearings, visit leg.mt.gov.

Sign up for MAC's eNews

Between the quarterly issues of the *State of the Arts*, our staff publishes four separate e-newsletters with opportunities and information:

- Artists' eNews
- Arts Educators' eNews
- Arts Organizations' eNews
- Public Artists' eNews

If you'd like to sign-up for one or more of these, please offer us your contact information and what you'd like to receive at: art.mt.gov/enews or send us an email at: mac@mt.gov.

STATE OF THE ARTS

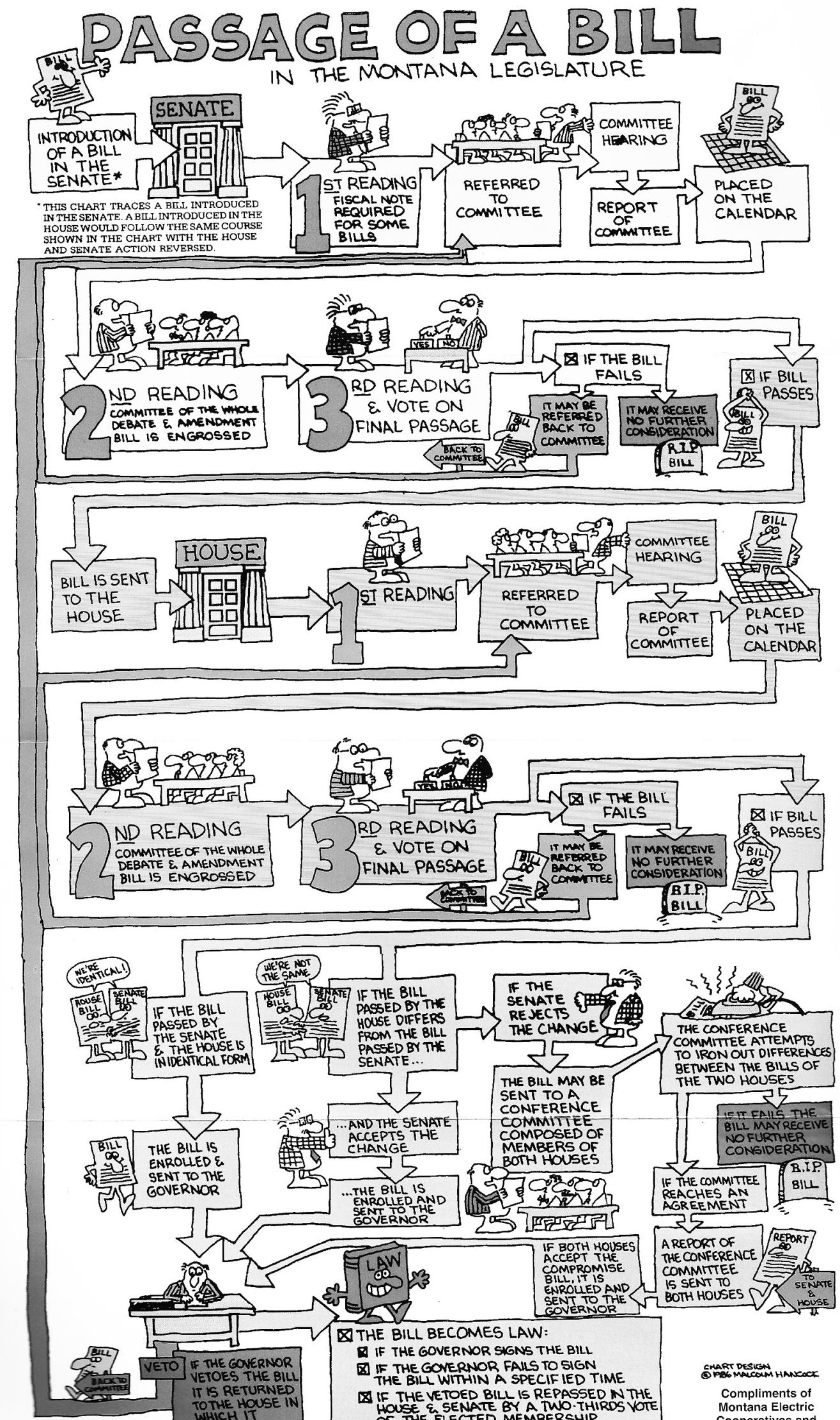
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State of the Arts welcomes submissions of photographs, press releases and newsworthy information from individual artists and arts organizations.

Please check with the Montana Arts Council for reprint permission.

Next Deadline: The deadline for submissions is March 1 for the Spring issue (April-June). Send items to: Montana Arts Council, PO Box 202201, Helena, MT 59620-2201; phone 406-444-6430, fax 406-444-6548 or email mac@mt.gov.

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CONGRATS TO ...

Members of the **Glacier Chorale**, who travelled to New York City in early December to sing Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 "Ode to Joy" and Choral Fantasy under Maestro Jonathan Griffiths at Carnegie Hall, under the auspices of Distinguished Concerts International (DCINY). This is the Chorale's second appearance at this prestigious concert event having participated in 2012 under former chorale conductor Jim Stanard. Glacier Chorale's conductor **Micah Hunter** led the group, which performed Dec. 3. "The Glacier Chorale was invited to participate in this concert, both because of our recent performances of both of these Beethoven works and because of our previous participation with DCINY in performing Handel's Messiah. Our singers are very excited to be part of this wonderful event," he said.

The **Montana A Cappella Society**, which has been invited to the International Choral Festival next June in Tuscany, Italy. The Bitterroot Valley group of 18 men and women from all walks of rural life has been together since 2003. "We love to share stories through a cappella music for the sheer joy of the unaccompanied human voice," says artistic director Don Matlock. Over the years, "Bitterroot Valley's Choir" has performed as costumed strolling carolers in Hamilton prior to the lighting of the community Christmas tree, and entertained at weddings, funerals, anniversaries, celebrations and a host of community events. The group has released four CDs, including their most recent, *Stories of America*, a collection of songs that were included in the Society's tour of Ireland for the 2013 Cork International Choral Festival. "It is a source of amazement to me that we can truly say that this little volunteer band of intrepid troubadours from rural Montana is internationally known," says Matlock. Each year in June, the International Choral Festival in Tuscany attracts choirs from all corners of the globe to the invitational event. The festival is set in the picturesque Tuscan spa town of Montecatini Terme, nestled between the rolling hills of Pistoia. The highlights of the trip for Montana A Cappella Society members are performances for the Vatican, the children's hospital and Jesuit's college in Rome, and at senior centers and for other under-served groups in the small towns they'll visit along the way. In addition to a Go Fund Me campaign and other fundraising events, the Society is raffling a trip for two to the festival; learn more at www.mtacappella.com.

Montana-based promoter **Logjam Presents**, which broke into the 2018 third-quarter list of Top 100 Promoters worldwide at #83 according to *Pollstar* magazine, an international concert-industry trade publication. In addition to the promoter ranking, Logjam Presents' Missoula venues, The Wilma and Top Hat, ranked in the 2018 third-quarter list of Top 100 Clubs by ticket sales worldwide at #63 and #99 respectively and the KettleHouse Amphitheater in Bonner, came in at #45 for Top 50 Amphitheaters. The news comes at the end of Montana's outdoor concert season where the newly constructed KettleHouse Amphitheater hosted 19 events. "For a Missoula-based promoter that sells 100 percent of its tickets in Montana to be ranked in the top 100 promoters in the world is really amazing," says **Nick Checota**, owner of Logjam Presents. "It's a testament to the unprecedented support Missoula, and Montana as a whole, has for live music." Logjam Presents is currently designing and constructing a new, state-of-the-art 1,500-capacity concert facility in Bozeman that is slated to open in the fall of 2019. The promoter also recently acquired booking rights to Missoula's 10,000-capacity Ogren Park after entering into an exclusive agreement with the City of Missoula earlier this year.

The recent **MADE fairs** held in Bozeman, Helena and Missoula, which were named some of the Best Fall and Holiday Craft Fairs in the U.S. by Pop Shop America. "We are honored to be included in a collection with others who create opportunities for artists to sell their handcrafted goods," said fair founder and organizer **Carol Lynn Lapotka**. The inaugural Bozeman MADE fair was held in October, followed by December fairs in Helena and Missoula. All three events showcase modern art and handcrafted wares by local and regional artists.

Bobbie McKibbin of Stevensville, whose painting received an Award for Excellence from Peter Hassrick at the inaugural Yellowstone Plein Air Invitational, Sept. 25-30 in Yellowstone National Park. Fourteen of the nation's best artists – including Montana participants **Shirl Ireland** of Gardiner, **Roger Rink** of East Glacier, **Greg Scheibel** of Bozeman and **Aaron Schuerr** of Livingston – painted "en plein air" (outside on-site) for four days in various locations throughout the park. Visitors had the opportunity to attend daily painting demonstrations and a paint-out that gathered all artists to paint in one location on Saturday, Sept. 29. A selection of the artists' "wet paintings" produced during the week were displayed alongside studio-produced pieces at the Old Faithful Lodge Recreation Hall, and were available for viewing and purchase on Sunday, Sept. 30. Proceeds from the event benefitted Yellowstone National Park priority projects and education initiatives.



Bobbie McKibbin's prize-winning plein-air painting



"Follow Your Bliss" by Willem Volkersz

Bozeman artist **Willem Volkersz**, whose sculpture, "Follow Your Bliss," is included in "Immigrant Artists and the American West," on display at the Tacoma Art Museum through June 14, 2020. The exhibition draws extensively on the museum's Haub Collection of Western American Art and explores how art relates and responds to personal and political issues around immigration. Among others, the exhibition includes works by Thomas Moran, Birger Sandzen, Olaf Seltzer and Akio Takamori. Volkersz immigrated from Holland with his family in 1953.

Two Montanans who were inducted into the C.M. Russell Museum's Russell Skull Society of Artists: western landscape impressionist **Troy Collins**, who creates paintings with brilliant color, texture and insight from his studio in the middle of the Bitterroot Mountains; and **Don Oelze**, a painter from Clancy who captures the bygone world of the historical West. Formed in 2013 to recognize a group of distinguished painters and sculptors for their dedication to keeping the traditions of Charles M. Russell alive, the Russell Skull Society also welcomes Jennifer Johnson of Colorado and John R. Phelps of Wyoming. Member artists will have pieces on display at the Russell Skull Society of Artists Suites in the Mansfield Convention Center, a free event during Western Art Week in March.



Juliene Sinclair with her mural, "The Dreamer"

transforms a once gray and graffitied wall into a colorful corner of the popular park. The annual Bozeman Beautification Awards celebrate outstanding residential and commercial, artistic, development, and landscape projects that enhance the aesthetics of the community.

The five Montanans who received High Plains Book Awards during the banquet Oct. 20 in Billings. Of the 12 authors receiving this year's awards, Montanans include: **Rick Newby** of Helena for *Theodore Waddell: My Montana*; **Arron Parrett** of Helena for *Maple & Lead*; **Doug Ammons** of Missoula for *A Darkness Lit by Heroes: The Granite Mountain-Speculator Mine Disaster of 1917*; **John Clayton** of Red Lodge for *Wonderlandscape: Yellowstone National Park and the Evolution of an American Cultural Icon*; and **Ellen Horowitz** of Kalispell for *What I Saw in Glacier*. The High Plains Book Awards recognize regional authors and/or literary works that examine and reflect life on the High Plains and are presented annually during the High Plains BookFest.

Mark Thane, the superintendent of Missoula County Public Schools, who was the first-ever recipient of the Montana Music Educators Association's Outstanding School Administrator award, presented at the MMEA conference Oct. 18, which included a concert by the Youngblood Brass Band. Thane was recognized for "supporting teachers, supporting kids, supporting programs that lead to the great fine arts program here in Missoula," said Kristin Harney, the president of the MMEA. Last spring, Thane was named Regional Superintendent of the Year by the Western Montana Association of School Superintendents. He was nominated for the new MMEA award by John Combs, MCPS's fine arts supervisor. "Mark has had a strong history of showing support for not just music, but all of the fine arts in Missoula," Combs told the *Missoulian*. Thane told the newspaper that while he was honored to receive the award, he couldn't take all of the credit. "I'm fortunate to be in a district that places tremendous value on the arts and a town that places such value on the arts." During his tenure with MCPS, Thane has helped implement the SPARK! Initiative, a community-wide partnership between MCPS teachers and administrators and local arts organizations with the goal of expanding arts programming in schools. "I can't emphasize enough the importance of the arts," Thane told the *Missoulian*. "Not only do the arts enhance our culture in Missoula but I think really serve to augment instruction, to help us reach students that we might not reach through other teaching methods or modalities."

– From the *Missoulian*, Oct. 22

More Congrats on next page



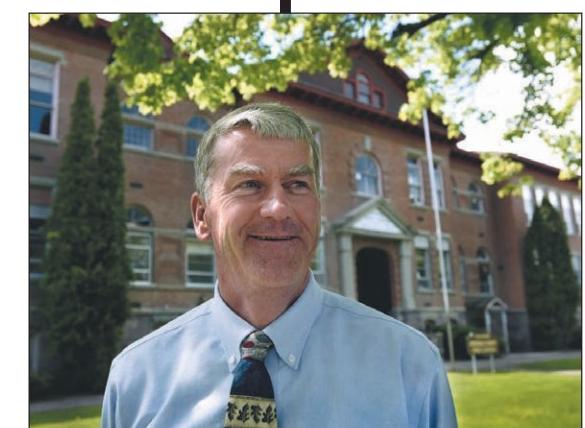
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Send us your good news

Artists, writers, musicians, arts educators and arts administrators: Please let us know about major awards and accomplishments, especially beyond the borders of Montana.

Send your good news to Congrats, c/o Kristi Niemeyer, 207 6th Ave. E, Polson, MT 59860; or better yet, email kristi@livelystimes.com.

If you include a digital photo, please make sure it's at least 200 lines per inch (lpi or dpi) and a file size of over 500kb.



Mark Thane, Missoula County Superintendent of Schools
(Photo by Kurt Wilson/*Missoulian*)

Congrats compiled by Kristi Niemeyer for State of the Arts



Logjam donates \$50K to SPARK!

SPARK!, a community-wide partnership working to expand arts programming in Missoula County Public Schools, received a \$50,000 donation from the Logjam Foundation, the charitable arm of Montana-based live entertainment promoter Logjam Presents.

"With the reduction of arts spending in our educational system, we feel initiatives such as SPARK! are more important than ever," said the foundation's founder, Nick Checota. "The arts are a critical part of educating our youth and have far reaching benefits for the long-run success of the current student population."

According to SPARK! Executive Director Sienna Solberg, support from Logjam helps them expand programming to middle schools, and continue to grow and provide access to arts for K-8 students. "The arts advocacy that the Logjam Foundation brings to Missoula is truly remarkable, and we are grateful to be a part of it, and work together to provide more arts opportunities for our children," she said.



Sara Stout

More Congrats to ...

Butte's **Wah Chong Tai Mercantile and Wai Wah Noodle Parlor**, which is among the 11 winners of a national Partners in Preservation competition. The Montana Main Street Program at the Department of Commerce nominated the historic site to compete with 19 other projects across the nation for a share of \$2 million in American Express funding for preservation projects. Due to a strong, Montana-wide voting presence, Butte was able to secure a \$150,000 award from Partners in Preservation that will assist in a rehabilitation of the historic building. "Butte competed against great preservation projects around the country and places that have a much higher population than us," Commerce Director Pam Haxby-Cote said. "It definitely shows what kind of support and pride we have with the folks in Butte and all over Montana." The 11 winning historic sites will receive a total of \$1.6 million in grants to fund their respective preservation projects. An additional \$400,000 was allocated to the 20 Main Street communities that participated in the program to increase public awareness of the importance of these historic places.

TRANSITIONS

Best wishes to Barbara Koostra, who leaves her role as director of the Montana Museum of Art and Culture at the University of Montana in December, after 14 years of service. "Barbara Koostra brought considerable attention and programming to the MMAC," UM Provost Jon Harbor said. "We thank Barbara for her service to UM, Missoula, the state and the region and wish her the best in her future endeavors." Oversight of MMAC shifted from the Office of the Provost to the College of Visual and Performing Arts earlier this year, and the change in leadership is part of the college's staffing plan. **Dr. Rafael Chacón**, UM professor of art history and criticism, will direct the museum beginning in January; **Jeremy Canwell**, MMAC curator of art and exhibitions coordinator, will remain on staff. Among the many accomplishments of her UM tenure, Koostra raised over \$1.5 million in operating, building and project funds and doubled the value of the Permanent Collection to over \$20 million; was named the Suzanne and Bruce Crocker Distinguished Director; presented more than 60 exhibitions, including one about Pulitzer Prize photographs, which broke all attendance records, and a Shakespeare Folio from the Folger Library in Washington D.C.; and secured hundreds of important artworks for the MMAC Permanent Collection, including pieces from the William A. Clark Collection at the Corcoran Gallery of Art, and the Ben Steele POW Collection. Chacón founded the Gilbert Millikan Art Resource Center in the School of Art in 1996 and has been active in museum studies, including curating exhibitions at MMAC, the Smart Museum at the University of Chicago, and the Eric Dean Gallery at Wabash College, as well as serving as Hispanic Studies coordinator in museum education at the Art Institute of Chicago.



Cameron Winrow

Welcome to the Great Falls Symphony Association's new principal clarinetist and member of the Chinook Winds, **Cameron Winrow**, who joins the organization in January. Auditions for the principal clarinet position were held in mid-September, and after three audition rounds, the position was offered to, and accepted by, Winrow, a native of San Diego. The musician began his music studies when he picked up his mother's old marching-band clarinet in the fifth grade. While always identifying as a musician, his varied interests and talents led him to pursue a bachelor of science in mechanical engineering with a minor in music from the University of California, Berkeley. Putting his engineering background to use, Winrow worked for an oil refinery for two years before returning to school at the Jacobs School of Music (Indiana University, Bloomington) where he studied with Eli Eban. He completed a master of music degree in clarinet performance in the spring of 2018. Winrow has performed with the National Repertory Orchestra, Festival Napa Valley Orchestra and New World Symphony, as well as toured Central Europe with the UC Berkeley Symphony Orchestra. His first performance with the Chinook Winds will be Jan. 13 and 15 in the Airs of Eastern Europe chamber music concerts. He debuts as principal clarinet of the Great Falls Symphony with the Passionate Passages program Jan. 19. He replaces **Chris Mothersole**, who has held the position of principal clarinet since the 2015-2016 season. Mothersole's last performances in Great Falls were at the symphony's Canzoni d'Amore concert on Nov. 3 and with the Chinook Winds chamber concerts Nov. 11 and 13. He has since joined his wife, Julia Moss, in Carrollton, GA, where she has accepted a videographer position at the University of Georgia.

Welcome to **Sara Stout**, who joined Humanities Montana in early December as the organization's new development director. Stout was raised on the East Coast and earned her undergraduate degree from the Wilkes Honors College in Florida with a concentration in history. She has lived in many states due to her father's career in the U.S. military but has called Montana home since 2010 when she moved here as an AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer. Stout fell in love with all Montana has to offer and was committed to continuing her work with nonprofit organizations after completing her national year of service. She has worked with local, state, and national nonprofits and enjoys connecting individuals and communities with causes they are passionate about.

CONDOLENCES TO ...

The friends and family of talented and legendary Lewis and Clark expert **Richard Norman Doyle Jr.** Known as Ritchie to friends and family, he died Nov. 5. Born in Anaconda in 1961, he lived in the Missoula area most of his life and attended the University of Oregon and the University of Montana. One of his greatest passions was studying the Lewis and Clark Expedition, and bringing William Clark to life through reenactment. He frequently gave speeches and led tours on the topic, and was chosen to attend the expedition's 200-year celebration in St. Louis. His enthusiasm for sharing his knowledge of local history, nature, arts, songwriting and various musical instruments was infectious. He made time for everyone, young or old, effortlessly transforming history lessons into adventures. He was involved in numerous events and organizations, including First Night and the Wildlife Film Festival. He served as chairman of Lolo's Travelers' Rest Preservation and Heritage Association, and worked for Lewis and Clark Adventures, helping guide raft trips in Montana and Idaho.

The friends and family of artist **Donna Loos**. She died Oct. 20 in Missoula at the age of 87. Loos was born at home in Hyattville, WY, and graduated from Northwest College in Powell, before receiving her bachelor's in arts education from Eastern Montana College. She had a long career in Billings



Donna Loos (Kurt Wilson/Missoulian)

as an all-around art-scene stalwart – artist, art teacher in the public school system for almost three decades, and activist in organizations including the Montana Institute of the Arts, the Montana Art Education Association and the Stillwater Society. She put up exhibits in almost every art gallery across Montana and was best known for painting large canvases of semi-abstract landscapes with grand skies and bold-colored fields, trees and rock formations. Several years after her husband's death in 1995, Loos moved to Missoula. As she aged and painting became more difficult, she revisited clay, enrolling in ceramics courses at the University of Montana and later working at the Clay Studio of Missoula making hand-built art. Toucan Gallery in Billings hosted a retrospective of her long career in October.

The family and friends of **Virginia Young Vinal**. The founding director of the Bitterroot Chorus died Oct. 19 in Hamilton; she was 91. The long-time choral teacher was also a founding member of the Missoula Symphony and the Hamilton Players. She was born Nov. 18, 1926, in Billings, and attended music school at Montana State University (now the University of Montana), where she met and married a young trombonist, Dean Vinal. When he became band director at Hamilton High School, she was hired to teach chorus at the school part-time, a post she held for three decades. In an interview with NBC Montana last summer, she told the reporter that music "is something you can do all your life and enjoy it. That's the reason I taught it is for people to enjoy it."



Virginia Vinal

The family and friends of **Sonia Jarrett**. She died Oct. 5. Born March 14, 1938, in Northwood, ND, she began her lifelong love of singing with the church choir. She worked as a teacher in Minnesota, New York, Washington, Texas and Wisconsin, before settling in Missoula in 1971 with her husband, Jim. Well known for her songbird soul, her contributions to the musical community include serving as president of the Missoula Symphony Association, member of St. Paul Lutheran Church Organ Committee, member of St. Paul Lutheran Church Choir, and member of the Missoula Symphony Chorale.

The friends and family of **Arch Ellwein**, who died in early October. He was 62 years old. Ellwein was a committee member for the Sunrise Festival of the Arts for all of the festival's 28 years and for 23 years his Footlights and Greasepaint Youth Theatre Retreat prompted young performers to try acting. He also organized dinner theaters in Sidney, directing plays featuring students and some with Richland Opportunities Inc. clients. He is well-known throughout the area for his portrayal of historical figures including Theodore



Arch Ellwein as Theodore Roosevelt

Roosevelt, Sgt. John Ordway, buffalo hunter Vic Smith and Captain Grant Marsh. He performed coast-to-coast in more than 2,400 shows. Deb Crossland of the Missouri-Yellowstone Confluence Interpretive Center told the Sidney Herald that she loved watching Ellwein teach students about Sitting Bull while at the Confluence Center. "He could make the whole room come alive," she said. He was also the voice of the Sidney Eagles and District 2-C sports, announcing sporting events, especially basketball, baseball and football, in Sidney for more than 40 years.

— From the *Sidney Herald*, Oct. 3

Governor's Arts Awards



5

Photos by Jerry Kozak



The 2018 Governor's Arts Awards recipients Rick Bass, Monte Dolack, Jackie Parsons, Jaune Quick-To-See Smith, Kevin Red Star and Annick Smith.



Kevin Red Star and daughter Sunnysky



Jaune Quick-To-See Smith, Corky Clairmont and Linda King



Mary and Monte Dolack, Tom McGuane and Debra Magpie Earling



Annick Smith and Cinda Holt



Rick Bass and Lt. Governor Mike Cooney with MAC Director Tatiana Gant looking on



Arni Fishbaugh and Jackie Parsons



Helena Symphony musicians Stephen Cepeda, Linda Kuhn and Garion Holian

Culture

By Jaune Quick-to-See Smith ©
(Enrolled Salish of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Nation)

Culture is our identity.
It makes us different, one from another.
Culture is our history, yours and mine.
Culture tells us who we are.
Robots and computers will never have it.
If you take your Soma pill, you won't have it either.

Culture can be our creation myth —
Did Coyote capture the sun
Or did a voice say "Let there be light."

Culture is our creation story —
Did God on high create the humans first and make them most important or did the Creator place the animals, the land and the humans in a holistic world.

Culture is our birthing method —
Do we sit up,
Do we lay down
Or do we squat.

Culture can be the way we greet the newborn child —
Is it washed in mother's urine,
Or held to the morning sun
Or slapped on the back.

Culture is our umbilical cord —
Do we bury it,
Carry it
Or throw it away.

Culture can be our notion of beauty —
Is it the tattoo on our chin
Or the red clay in our hair
Or walking with spiked sticks under our heels.

Culture can be the way we bury our dead —
Do we push a raft into the river,
Or make a clay mound above the ground
Or sprinkle ash from a plane.

Culture defines the way we teach our children —
Through stories about the plants, the animals and the earth
Or through stories about Star Wars, Spiderman, Dragonball Z
Or Sponge Bob Square Pants

Culture defines the way we dance —
In a lombada,
The fancy dance, a square dance
Or the salsa.

Culture defines our social group —
The country club,
The Bloods and Crips, the RV campers
Or the bingo mafia.

Culture is how we greet one another —
Do we kiss cheeks,
Give hand shakes, high fives
Bow or rub noses.

Culture is – language, slang, humor, gestures, dance, religion, ceremony, clothing, music, art, folkways, taboos, literature, foods, oral history, institutions, systems, governments and more.

That's your culture, your identity —
Yours and mine.

Jaune wrote this poem for the ceremony



Governor's Arts Awards 2018

The 2018 Governor's Arts Awards ceremony, held Dec. 7 at the State Capitol in Helena, kicked off with a string trio of musicians from the Helena Symphony welcoming guests. Lt. Governor Mike Cooney presided over the event on behalf of Governor Steve Bullock.

The six awardees, whose profiles follow, were honored by their friends and family, including those who nominated them for this award. (*Profiles by Kristi Niemeyer*)

Rick Bass, Writer

"There's that great William Carlos Williams quote: 'No ideas but in things.' Montana is still a place that's full of things. Things are good for writers. You can quote me on that."

Thomas McGuane, a long-time friend, reader and fan of internationally acclaimed Montana author Rick Bass, nominated him for the Governor's Arts Award.

"I consider him an important national writer and a Montana treasure," writes McGuane – himself a Montana writer of great stature and Governor's Arts Award honoree. He

notes that Bass's considerable literary outpouring "amounts to a celebration of Montana and a guardianship of her natural treasures."

Critics, writers and readers echo that praise.

"What's exhilarating about Rick Bass's stories is that they show every hallmark of 'the natural' – that lucid, free-flowing, particularly American talent whose voice we can

hear in Twain, Fitzgerald, and Hemingway." (*Chicago Tribune*)

"Bass's language glistens with the beauty of the landscape he evokes. ... His narration is pitch-perfect, and his writing so full of empathy for people and places that each story is a new revelation." (*San Francisco Chronicle*)

The *New York Times* review of his 2016 collection, *For a Little While*, calls him "hands down, a master of the short form, creating in a few pages a natural world of mythic proportions."

Bass moved to the remote Yaak Valley in northwestern Montana more than three decades ago, when his writing career was in its infancy, and has since authored more than 30 works of fiction and non-fiction.

His most recent collection of new and selected stories, *For a Little While*, earned the prestigious Story Prize in 2016; another collection, *The Lives of Rocks*, was a finalist for that prize and named Best Book of the Year by the *Rocky Mountain News*.

His fiction has received O. Henry Awards and numerous Pushcart Prizes, and earned him fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation. Several stories have been anthologized in *Best American Short Stories: The Year's Best*. His nonfiction book, *Why I Came West*, was a finalist for a National Book Critics Circle Award in 2008.

Bass received a 2011 Montana Arts Council Artist's Innovation Award, and has taught writing at the University of Montana, Montana State University, and several other colleges and universities. He serves on the Yaak Valley Forest Council and Save the Yellowstone Grizzly, and is a member of the *Whitefish Review* Editorial Board.

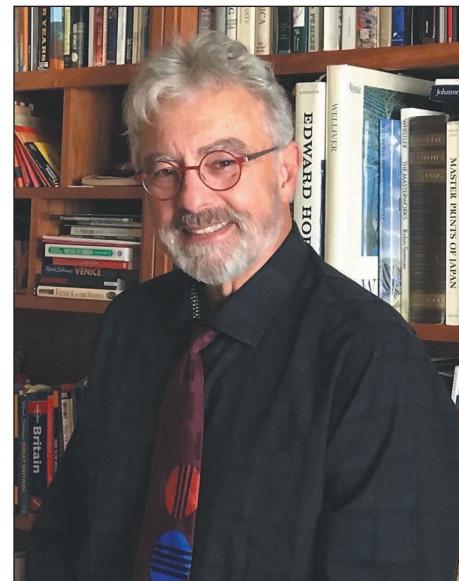
The son of a geologist and an English teacher, he grew up in Houston and studied petroleum geology at Utah State University. He started writing short stories on his lunch breaks while working as a petroleum geologist in Jackson, MS.

"It's essentially how I learned to write: by looking for oil and gas. The process is eerily similar," he told Michael Becker in a story in MSU's *Mountains and Minds*.

He also credits Jim Harrison's *Legends of the Fall* with changing him from reader to writer. "When I read it, the slow sleeping atoms in my blood began, with that one awakening, to realign into crystalline forms that were unfamiliar to me," he writes in his latest book, *The Traveling Feast*. "I followed them, no questions asked."

Now 60, Bass continues to give readings, write and lecture around the world. He told *Mountain Outlaw* in a story published last year: "Now I think about things more like a painter thinking about the colors on the palette and the brushes. And I have a greater sinuosity to the flow of the story and sedatives – less volatile, jagged, helter-skelter bomb-throwing and pyrotechnics."

If his writing style is more contemplative, it doesn't dampen the verve with which he approaches his craft. Scott Slovic, a professor at the University of Idaho and a scholar in the field of ecological literary criticism, writes that Bass "has demonstrated not only a unique literary and activist voice but virtually unprecedented energy in pursuit of his craft and his causes ... This writer has a bomb in his heart – such is the incandescence within him."



Monte Dolack (Photo by Mary Elizabeth Dolack)

Monte Dolack, Artist

"There are a great many influences in our world but it is important to listen to the inner voice and be true to one's self. My morning walks on the mountain or along the river are important and I tell people, 'The mountain will tell you what you need to know.'

Five "friends, fans, colleagues and professional associates" joined forces to nominate celebrated artist Monte Dolack for the Governor's Arts Award. "Not only is he arguably the most famous artist in Montana, his work reflects the Montana we all know and love," say nominators John Keegan, Geoff Sutton, Tom Anderson, Gary Wolfe and Emily Heid.

Keegan continues: "Monte's work has a narrative quality that he has cultivated – an increasingly sophisticated artistic vision that could be described as Contemporary Nouveau Western Art ... His technical excellence, his unique vision, and his artistic literacy engage and delight people worldwide."

Dolack was born in Great Falls to a working-class family, and grew up surrounded by the same sweeping vistas and big sky that inspired Charlie Russell. From an early age, he loved to draw, and says his parents "were very supportive of my quest to become an artist."

He studied art at Montana State University and the University of Montana, taking courses from such legendary Montana teachers as painter Robert DeWeese and ceramist Rudy Autio, who once described him as "one of the most respected and resourceful artists in the state of Montana."

In turn, Dolack credits "great art teachers at the Great Falls school system and then at both Montana University systems" with encouraging and mentoring him as a young artist.

Dolack opened his first studio in 1974 in Missoula, launching a successful career in fine art and graphics that now spans more than 40 years.

Along the way, he was named by the *Missoulian* as one of the 100 most influential Montanans of the 20th century and, with his first wife, artist Mary Beth Percival (now deceased), received the Distinguished Fine Arts Alumni award from the University of Montana in 2008.

His audience is international, as evidenced by the scope of his exhibition catalogue, which includes solo exhibits at the United Nations' Palace of Nations in Geneva, Switzerland, Bossanyi Gallery and Studio in London, Kumamoto Prefecture Museum in Japan, and Neckargemünd Museum in Germany. His work was also part of group exhibitions that toured museums in China, New Zealand and Ireland.

Dolack's works are in the collections of the Library of Congress, the American Association of Museums, the National Wildfire Foundation and numerous other museums and corporations.

Dolack is disciplined, spending up to four hours a day making art. "I start with ideas jotted down in my journals and sketchbooks," he writes. "Ideas can arise at any time and it is important to make a quick notation or sketch of that glimmer or seed of an idea which may grow into a much more complete piece."

His abiding appreciation for the natural world is a constant stream, threading itself through his work, and has lead to commissions for the Nature Conservancy, Defenders of Wildlife and Trout Unlimited. In 2014 he was chosen to design the official national commemorative poster for the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act. He's also created more than 200 posters and prints for various organizations and causes in Montana and beyond.

"Finding the balance for art-making at the intersection between Nature and civilization has shaped my art," he writes.

And with sly humor and a keen eye, Dolack has shaped a contemporary view of our giant state. As the late Ivan Doig wrote:

"Monte puts the two Montanas together. East of the Divide: the great mountain front out there in one direction, those blessed square buttes in a couple of others, the water of the Missouri forever passing through ... This is that Montana of the eye, the unforgettable glimpse, the long gaze, the memory."

"Then when he takes off over the Divide into more surreal territory – the tabby cat wistful beneath fish-shaped clouds, the beaver tasting their way through a human abode of logs – he's giving us what seems to be his favorite fond map of the Montana of the mind ... What's more, he achieves it all with impeccable craft."



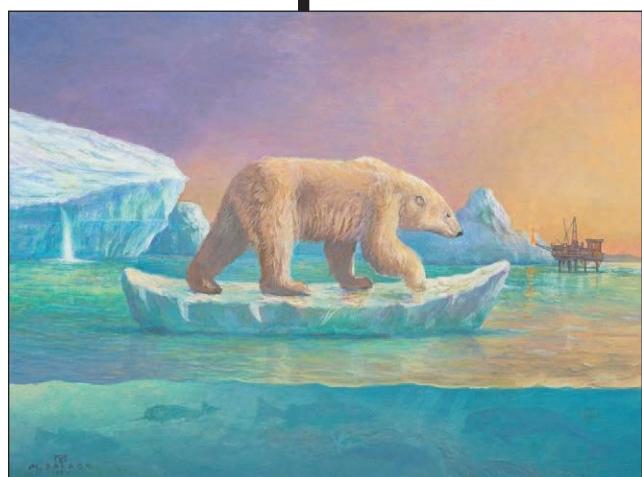
Jackie Parsons (Photo by Ronnie Farley/First Peoples Fund)

Jackie Parsons (Eck Skim Aue Kee), Traditional Artist

"When I'm wearing a Blackfeet dress that I have made, I feel really powerful, because I feel so very connected to everything around me."

Arlynn Fishbaugh, retired executive director of the Montana Arts Council, worked with Jackie Parsons for more than 20 years – many of those while Parsons served as chair of the Montana Arts Council. She nominated the Blackfeet artist for the Governor's Arts Award in part, she says, because of "the way she has woven her artistry into her daily life and in teaching future generations of artists."

Continued on page 7



"Shift" by Monte Dolack

"It was from Jackie that I learned that in the Blackfeet language – as in many other native languages – there is no word for art," writes Fishbaugh. "That's because art is so fully integrated into daily life that no word is necessary to define it."

Parsons's Blackfeet name, Eck Skim Aue Kee, means "Woman of Iron." The strength embodied by her name manifests in her art, her teaching and her commitment to her community.

She was a featured artist and helped curate "Identity by Design: Tradition, Change, and Celebration in Native Women's Dresses," the inaugural exhibit at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C., which then toured to the George Gustav Heye Center in New York City. Her work was also prominently featured in the coffee-table book that accompanied the exhibition.

She was also selected by the Smithsonian as co-curator of Blackfeet Nation, a 30-piece display that was part of the rotating tribal community exhibition, "Our Peoples: Giving Voice to Our Histories."

"It's really been a spiritual encounter for me to be able to let the general public know what we are all about, that we are not savages, that we have a high intelligence of life and know how to utilize our natural surroundings," she said of that curatorial experience.

The First People's Fund, a national organization serving Native American artists, recognized Parsons's artistic excellence through its 2008 Cultural Capital Fellowship and its 2012 Community Spirit Award that "honors and celebrates exceptional Native artists and culture bearers across the country."

Parsons was born and raised on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation. Orphaned at age 3, she spent the next seven years under the care of her grandmother, a self-taught seamstress who taught her the rudiments of sewing. Upon her grandmother's death, her aunt and uncle raised her and, along with other relatives, inspired her creativity through their own artistic endeavors.

In 1955, she married rancher Ken Parsons and they had six children – all became artists, and four are pursuing professional careers in the arts.

Over the years Parsons has expressed

herself in several mediums, most notably quillwork, beadwork and clothing design, but also woodcarving, painting, silversmithing and writing. Her art is now in permanent collections in New Zealand and China, and is represented by galleries across the United States.

Parsons is among the longest-serving council members of MAC (1994-2013); she was appointed chairman in 2005 and held that post until retiring from the council in 2013.

Larry Williams, chairman of MAC when Parsons was first appointed to the council, describes her as "an exceptional and consummate artist ... She remains an engaged, clear and concise spokesperson for the arts and creative process."

Indeed, making and teaching art has remained at the heart of her life. She promoted arts and crafts in her region for 35 years as the director of the Northern Plains Craft Association, and mentored up to 10 students annually in preparation for the Native art show at the Heard Museum in Phoenix. She's currently at work on a book titled *Teaching Art to Young People*.

"Many young people now speak our language, participate in powwows, practice our traditional religion, and use their natural artistic talent to keep our tradition alive," said Parsons. "It has been, and continues to be, my pleasure and privilege to have the honor of passing on our traditions visually, verbally and through teaching."



Kevin Red Star

Kevin Red Star, Artist

"Over the past 50 years, my art has been a gradual and steady evolution of technique, color, form and intensity of emotion, a maturity of life experience."

Kevin Red Star grew up on the Crow reservation near Lodge Grass. Both his father and mother modeled art as a way to express cultural traditions.

His father, Wallace Red Star, was a musician and encouraged his children to try playing various instruments.

Kevin, third of nine children, chose several before settling on drums. But his first and strongest passion would always be drawing and painting.

His mother, Amy Bright Wings was a bead artist and ceremonial clothing designer. From her he learned about the power of color and pattern, as well as perseverance and attention to detail.

When Red Star was a junior in high school, he was invited to join the inaugural class of 150 students at the Institute of American Indian Art (IAIA) in Santa Fe, NM. With its outstanding roster of art instructors and the school's emphasis on cultural representation,

in a career now spanning a half-century, more than 100 large-scale exhibitions have featured the celebrated artist's works on canvas and paper, including 40 solo shows. In Montana alone he has shown at the Hockaday Center for the Arts, the Museum of the Rockies, the Yellowstone Art Museum, the C.M. Russell Museum, the Carbon County Arts Guild and Depot Gallery, the Holter Museum of Art, and the Missoula Art Museum.

In 1997, he received an Honorary Doctorate from the Rocky Mountain College in Billings, and he was inducted into the C.M. Russell Museum's elite Russell Skull Society in 2014. He is also the subject of a large-format art book, *Kevin Red Star: Crow Indian Artist*, published in 2014 and winner in the multi-cultural non-fiction category of a 2015 USA Best Book Award.

Through his travels across the country and internationally, he remains an emissary of the Crow people and the state of Montana.

He also mentors young artists who come to his studio for tips and encouragement. One of his mentees, Red Lodge artist Ben Pease, praises Red Star's ability to "empower, inspire and create."

"Kevin has been creating for over seven decades, while always exemplifying Apsáalooke culture in Montana, and on both national and international platforms," writes Pease. "In recognizing the expansive list of permanent collections and exhibitions that Red Star's accolades carry, one begins to comprehend the sheer historical provenance of the artist and his ability to constantly produce, persevere, represent and overcome."

Virginia Bryan, director of ArtWalk Downtown Billings, describes him as "a man generous of heart and spirit ... Through his fine work, he has brought Apsáalooke history and stories to life and shared them with the world. He is an ambassador for the very best of Montana."

Annick Smith, Writer, Editor & Filmmaker

"Montana is intrinsic to my writing – it is my creative hearth. All of my writing has been done in Montana, at my desk in the log house on the meadow in the Blackfoot Valley where I have lived since 1971. My meadow is a constant inspiration, as are the Big Blackfoot River, Glacier Park, the wide open plains of eastern Montana, the Rocky Mountains, and wilderness areas such as the Bob Marshall – these have been inspirations and the subject matter for my essays, stories, films, and anthologies."

"As a filmmaker, writer, activist and citizen, Annick Smith has been, and continues to be, an integral thread in the literary, artistic, environmental, and social fabric of Montana," writes friend and colleague Robert Stubblefield in nominating her for the Governor's Arts Award.

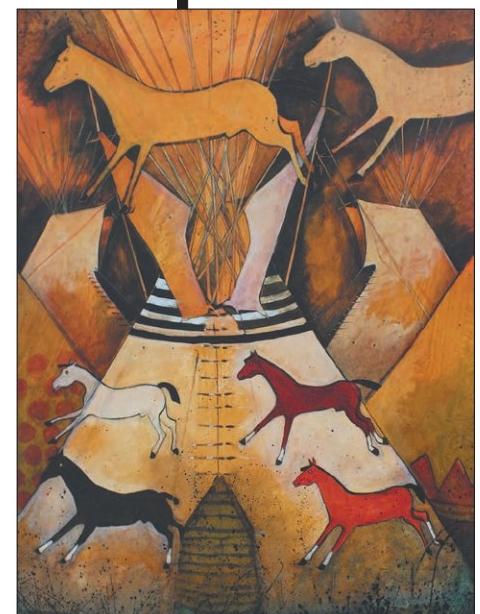
Smith was born in Paris, grew up in Chicago, lived in Seattle, and has settled in Montana for more than 50 years. She was a filmmaker first, producing the prize-winning feature, "Heartland," and was a co-producer of "A River Runs Through It."

Her documentaries include a series about Indian tribes in the Inland Northwest,

"The Real People," for public television, and a portrait of poet Richard Hugo, "Kicking the Loose Gravel Home." Smith was a founding member of the Sundance Film Institute and the Independent Features Project.



7



"Crow Horse Tipi #2"
by Kevin Red Star



Flag Vest Trio by Jackie Parsons

Red Star shined. AIAA proved to be the springboard that would launch his career and strengthen his lifelong connection to his people and his culture.

Red Star continued his studies at the San Francisco Art Institute before embarking on his career. Along with other IAIA graduates, he attracted immediate notice in New York and Paris, as well as established art centers across the U.S., and was among a generation that changed the face of modern Indian art.

In 1987 Red Star returned to Montana permanently and settled in Roberts, near Red Lodge. There he produces paintings at his large studio, continuing the work that depicts the old Crow ways and the vibrancy of life lived on the high plains of Montana.

"Red Star's larger-than-life, color-filled canvases leave an indelible image on the minds and souls of all who see them," writes the artist's representative Abigail Hornik, who nominated him for the Governor's Arts Award. "By putting a face on the indigenous people of Montana, he is helping preserve their history and traditions."

His work is included in permanent collections in prestigious institutions such as the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of the American Indian, Whitney Museum of Western Art, Heard Museum, Denver Art Museum, the Eiteljorg Museum and the National Museum of the American Indian, and has been featured in special exhibitions in France, Belgium, Germany, China and Japan.



Annick Smith
(Photo by Tony Cesare)

Continued on page 12



NATIVE NEWS

8

Powwow calendar available

Chris Roberts's 2019 photo calendar of dancers participating in area powwows is available now and showcases portraits of well-known dancers on the powwow trail. "The action images capture the essence of competitive skills in key moments of these athletic dance contests," he says.

The new release marks the Missoula photographer's 23rd season of producing these calendars, which are marketed in Montana and nationally.

Roberts has been a dancer on the northwest powwow circuit for 52 years and began photographing powwows seriously in the mid-1980s. "I am honored to be a Prairie Chicken dancer in the Golden Age category," he says. As a respected elder/dancer, he gains unparalleled photographic access to these traditional events.

For more information, visit powwowcountry.com or call Meadowlark Media at 888-728-2180.

Blackfeet artist draws on tradition (from page 1)

"With my style, I get put into ledger art, but I call it Plains Indian Graphic Art," he said. "I paint on tipis, buffalo skulls, canvas, whatever I can get my hands on."

Evolutionary Art: Ledger artists advance artform

For the blanket, he portrayed the stylized horses as the Piikani band (part of the Blackfeet Confederacy) sometimes painted them before going on a hunt, on a raid or into battle. Circles above their eyes were to make the horses see better. Lightning bolts were to make them run faster. The ledger background includes his signature.

The blanket has a two-sided design. It's made with New Zealand wool, covers a Queen bed and costs \$215. The company donates 5 percent of sales to the Inspired Natives grant for emerging arts entrepreneurs.

Pepion also designed a cotton throw blanket with a buffalo design and Blackfeet symbols. Above the buffalo on the red, yellow and black blanket is a cross representing the morning star, which was an important part of creation stories and ceremonies. In Blackfoot mythology, Morning Star was the son of the Sun and Moon. An arrow across the buffalo stands for the lifeline/sacred breath of the buffalo. Circles stand for stars.

Morning Stars show up again in the jewelry he's producing.

Through the project, Pepion has turned his personal website, johnisaiahpepion.com, into an e-commerce site. He's designed jewelry and cellphone cases to sell through the site.

"The goal is in four years to be a successful entrepreneur and help my community," he said. "I have the talent and the drive, but I wasn't getting the business part. A lot of artists don't want to do that side, and I didn't either but I have to."

The program has helped him think through alternative business ideas. He had focused on a traditional gallery show model. But it's tough to have it all ride on an art show.

"I was always up late worrying about the next art show," he said.

And there's the thrill of having a wool blanket with his design. Wool blankets are a common gift for graduation, birthday, Christmas and notable accomplishments.

"They're gifted a lot in Indian country. Coming from a Native company, it's huge. It means a lot more," Pepion said.

"It's been a great response, especially from my family and friends," he said. "I'm hoping to reach more people. I've been enjoying the response."

Eighth Generation: Challenging stereotypes

Pepion called Eighth Generation founder Louie Gong an inspiration and said he's constantly pushing him forward.

Gong, who grew up with his Nooksack grandparents, is a self-taught artist who got



Lightning Horse blanket designed by John Isaiah Pepion and produced by Eighth Generation of Seattle, the first Native-owned company to produce wool blankets.

(Photos from Eighth Generation)

his break doing custom shoes that incorporated Coast Salish artistic traditions.

Gong said he started Eighth Generation without a business loan or a grand plan. The company's name references the traditional value of considering the impact of a decision on the next seven generations. The eighth generation recognizes the impact of those who came before, and it's a lucky number in China (Gong has Nooksack, Chinese, French and Scottish ancestry).

"I started with one artist, then two, then three," he said.

Pepion is No. 6, and Gong said he first noticed Pepion through work he saw online. He was struck by how much personality Pepion's ledger art has.

"He was a great match not only because of the fact he's in a region we knew was important to expand to but also he had the artistic chops and ability to engage the community," Gong said.

"We don't operate with money as the only currency. Community engagement is also an important currency for Eighth Generation," Gong said. "We want John to take the information and opportunities and amplify them."

Pepion travels and teaches about art as a way of healing and works with troubled youth on his own. Soon he'll be in Calgary, Alberta giving a presentation on ledger art.

Gong said business knowledge and capital are rare in Native communities. That makes the role of the artist/entrepreneur even more important in spreading the stories of how to succeed.

"We're not just working with the goal of paying our bills and creating opportunities for our children but also have the health and wellness of the broader community in mind when we make decisions," he said.

Most of the products are made in the United States, many in the Seattle studio. Others are important.

"We're part of the global economy," Gong said. "People always assume our aunties and grandmas are weaving the blankets in tipis behind our store. Eighth Generation is to say our people are highly ambitious entrepreneurs who will make great business partners. We're working to expand people's idea of contemporary Native people."

Eighth Generation has done 50 blankets in three years in business. That includes wool blankets, a smaller made-in-the-USA wool blanket and cotton throws. It also includes private label projects for tribes, organizations and companies.

Eighth Generation has a shop at Pike Place Market in Seattle and is online at eighthgeneration.com. Stepping into the store isn't like stepping into a traditional store focused on Native products, Gong said. The music is energetic. The floor is bright blue. Everything is contemporary.

"We're challenging stereotypes with the understanding that's not the best way to make a sale but with the overarching belief in currencies besides money," Gong said. "If we plant a seed that informs their interactions with Native people in the future, then we're happy."



"All My Relations" by B. Yellowtail

B. Yellowtail designs "All My Relations" blanket

"In a time when many choose to divide & build walls, we choose to find beauty & commonality in one another. All walks of life, all my relations."

— Bethany Yellowtail

The All My Relations blanket — the first offering in Eighth Generation's Groundbreakers Series — features designs of the Apsaalooke (Crow) and Tsetsehestahese/So'taeo'o (Northern Cheyenne) to honor and recognize the nations of designer Bethany Yellowtail.

Cross-laden vertical stripes and crosses speak to Crow elements, while horizontal stripes and the Morning Star pattern reflect the Northern Cheyenne. Traditionally, the two tribes were enemies with a longstanding rivalry dating back to the days when they lived freely and buffalo roamed the Great Plains. This design weaves the differences and blends the similarities of each tribal nation in a harmonious symbol of unity.

Yellowtail is a fashion designer who grew up on the Crow Nation and is tribally enrolled in the Northern Cheyenne Nation. Her clothing line, B. Yellowtail, celebrates ancestral tradition, beauty, and culture, embracing an authentic voice of contemporary Native America through design and wearable art.

MAM participates in inaugural internship program for minority students

Missoula Art Museum has been selected as one of 10 museums in the country to participate in the first year of a new 12-week paid internship program for college students from underrepresented communities launched by the Association of Art Museum Directors (AAMD). The curatorial internship at MAM will assist curators in organizing and designing an exhibition proposal of artwork from MAM's extensive contemporary American Indian art collection. MAM has the largest collection of contemporary Native art in the state, and currently dedicates an entire gallery of the museum to exhibiting works by contemporary American Indian artists.

"We are incredibly proud that MAM was

selected among the applicants nationwide because of our commitment to contemporary Native artists," said Brandon Reintjes, senior curator. "We are grateful to AAMD for organizing this program that is central to the work that we do at MAM to increase diversity and equity."

Research shows that fewer than 20 percent of art museum leadership positions are held by people of Asian, Black, Hispanic, Native American, or multiracial backgrounds. To address this disparity, each participating museum will host a college student/intern from underrepresented communities who is in their sophomore, junior, or senior years to gain hands-on experience in an art museum for 12

weeks during the summer of 2019.

A member of the museum's staff will serve as a mentor during the internship to provide opportunities for conversation, feedback, direction, and career advice. The intern will receive a stipend, as well as opportunities to travel to one or two museum field conferences for networking and professional development. Additional funding support was provided by a generous grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.

For more information about how to apply, contact Reintjes at brandon@missoulartaumuseum.org. The application process opens Jan. 1, and submissions will be accepted until March 1 with notifications by April 1.

ABOUT MUSIC

— By Mariss McTucker

Ben Reed: *Two Dollar Woman – and Other Tales from the Road of Love and Life*

When Billings guitarist and retired business owner and finance professor Ben Reed first heard the Sons of the Pioneers' hit songs, he was hooked. He played trumpet in school, sang in a college folk group, and played a smattering of guitar until other college studies took all his time.

Years later, when he realized he needed music in his life again, he started picking his Martin guitar and writing songs, and the result is this self-penned album. Assisting him are Kristina Stykos on oodles of instruments; Patrick Ross, fiddle and cello; Charlie Shew, drums, percussion and bass; and Lizzy Mandell, harmony vocals. A spicy horn section, courtesy of John Roberts, trombone, Brent Koch, sax, and Mark Fenderson, trumpet, populate the folky "Love's Melody."

The title tune is a soft, sad ballad, perfectly suited to Reed's deep, warbly baritone. It's got lovely sustained guitar and a pretty lilting fiddle interlude. "The Living Room Two-Step" is a cool bluesy dancer with great percussion, and "Fool for Love" is a soft country loper with silky piano and a sweet message.

"Ode to Jim," with its hypnotic beat and cello undertones, is about a singer addicted to drugs who is unable to kick the habit, to dire consequences. Whew!

Following one's muse when there are resources and time is a welcome pleasure; Reed has plans to continue down this musical journey.

Heather Lingle: *Wild Blue*

Butte songstress Heather Lingle's third release features eight Americana originals. A sixth-generation Texan who left the Lone Star State with her sister for the wild beauty of Montana some years back, Lingle has an accomplished alto voice that's husky, emotive and quite supple.

Band members include husband John Emeigh, acoustic guitar; Michael McDaniel, drums; Jim Constantine, mandolin; Bill Dwyer, Dobro and guitars – acoustic, slide and baritone; Kevin McGlynn, bass; and Lingle's dad, Floyd Luker, who plays upright bass.

Lingle clearly hails from a musical family – she co-wrote "Meme's Story" with her grandmother, Dorothy Rinehart Lester. It's a tender waltz about a woman who loses her long-time spouse to illness.

Lingle plays acoustic guitar and wrote all but one of the songs – her husband Emeigh's "Crazy Feeling." The rollicking dancer about living on the edge, yet remaining optimistic, has a terrific hook and lots of kick-ass guitar breaks; Lingle adds a little hitch to her voice while singing "cra-azy." She sings all vocals on the CD except for the chorus singers on this 'un.

Husband and wife share credits on "Aunt Marty's Cadillac," a rockabilly kicker with Chuck Berry nuances and stinging guitar riffs.

The up-tempo title tune, "Wild Blue," is about her move to Montana as the sisters sought a better life. Lingle adds snippets of harmony to her phrasing here. And "Misery Is Over" has our protagonist finally breaking the chains of a bad relationship. It's an empowering country ballad with a stutter-step guitar rhythm.

"Shaken Me" may be the showstopper. A woman experiences the extreme boundaries of both joy and grief after a deeply unnerving experience, and is finally overcome with tears. It's sparse and haunting, as Lingle's voice trembles and her high, reverb-y "oohs" are primal and chilling.

Lingle's work never fails to deliver, and this CD is no exception.

Visit heatherlingle.com.



Montana Tunesmith: *Dream Catch*

Brothers Tim and Mike Nordstrom, fifth-generation Montanans from Billings, have their third album out featuring their brand of Americana music. All songs save one were written by Tim Nordstrom; Charley Waples co-wrote "Oh Montana" with him. It's a gorgeous paean to our beloved Big Sky Country.

Talented guests on the effort are Pat Manske, drums/percussion; Asleep at the Wheel's Dennis Ludeker, fiddle and mandolin; Grammy-winning producer Lloyd Maines on umpteen instruments, including pedal steel and Dobro; folk singer Tracy Grammer, fiddle and vocals on the title tune; and Grammy-winner George Winston, piano on "One Montana." Mike Nordstrom contributes vocals, and Tim plays acoustic guitar, banjo, and piano.

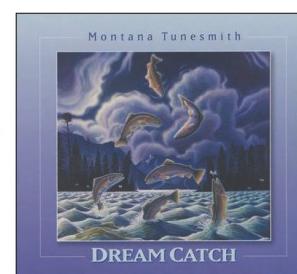
The 13 compositions have smooth and lush production, and crackerjack riffs abound. Thick layers of instrumentation swaddle "Family Calling," a sad ballad of a man whose dreams have passed him by. Lots of silky pedal steel add to the ambience.

The catchy "Live It Up" is a nifty jitterbugger. The snap-tap of drums and light mandolin implore us to taste life. "Work hard play hard until you're in the boneyard" is good advice!

"31 Flavors" is a mandolin-flavored loper that bemoans the loss of uniqueness across our country, and "Back from the Woods" has a moody, country-rock flavor with minor chords and banjo riffs. The vocals here remind me a bit of Charlie Daniels. The brothers have tight harmonies and adept baritone voices that mesh nicely on all the pieces.

"Dream Catch" is a spooky fishing song, dark and quiet, with a cool Dobro lead. Grandma is the fisher in 1925 who lands her biggest catch, yet lets it go. "Full Moon on the Missions," a tender ballad, and "One Montana," a waltz, complete the trio of songs extolling this place we all love.

Visit montanatunesmith.com.



Schizoid Johnny: *Shadow Man*

Zortman's John Steinhardt, a multi-instrumentalist also known as Schizoid Johnny or "Slide Willie" Johnson, has put out a new album after his 2016 effort that incorporated all 21 albums of his previously-released original material. A performance artist for over 30 years, Steinhardt has toured worldwide and is currently the band director at Hays-Lodgepole High School in Hays.

Steinhardt's voice is a barrel-chested bass, deep and burly and suited to rock 'n roll, but he is comfortable in many genres. On this effort, I hear country flavors, some pop nuances, a bit of the blues, and a whiff of folk. "Shadow Man," the title tune, has a country beat paired with tinkly piano and crisp drums; Steinhardt enunciates every word in a sandpaper delivery. He also takes off on one of his patented fuzzed-up rock guitar riffs near the end.

"John 3.3," barely a minute long, is orchestral with bells and lots of powerful, sustained chords, creating church-like overtones. Steinhardt reprises it, too; that incarnation has a lighter music-box feel.

"I'm not Losin' My Faith" has a snappy pop-rock sound, Steinhardt whispering in an echo-y, effects-laden voice that sounds a bit like David Bowie struttin' his stuff. He becomes "Slide Willie" Johnson on "The Universe Is Chaos," playing some bluesy slide guitar amid chunky, thick drums and tight horn riffs.

"Sally's Calico Dress," a catchy instrumental, is an up-tempo dancer with a cool opening guitar riff. A giant horn section enters to fill out the sound; I imagine clapping and line dancing too.

"Murder at Murdo" is a waltz with perhaps a subtle mando riff and reverb-y surf guitar. Abruptly changing tempo midway through, it's eerily off-kilter. Good timing for the darkening days of fall!

Visit schizoidjohnny.net.



9

State of the Arts welcomes CDs

State of the Arts welcomes CD submissions by Montana musicians for inclusion in the About Music section. The recordings must be professional, commercially available, full-length CDs recorded within the past 12 months, with cover art and liner notes. Reviews also appear at livelytimes.com, Montana's statewide source for arts and entertainment.

Brief biographical information on band members would be helpful to the writer.

Please send submissions to CD reviewer Mariss McTucker, P.O. Box 81, Dixon, MT, 59831.

Heath Watts, M.J. Williams, Nancy Owens and Blue Armstrong: *Sensoria*

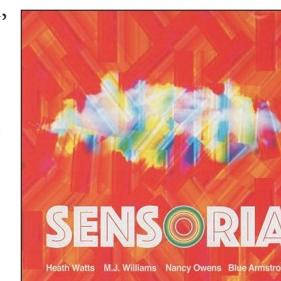
Four of Montana's premier jazz artists came together to create an album of fearless free improvisation, and Sensoria is the result. The group is comprised of Dillon's Heath Watts, soprano saxophone and voice; Butte's Blue Armstrong, acoustic double-bass, and Basin residents M.J. Williams, trombone, piano, melodica and voice; and Nancy Owens, violin. The musicians collectively wrote most tracks, except for "Kif-kif," by Watts and Owens, and "Time Release," by Armstrong and Williams.

Free improvisation allows each artist to strip away most elements of jazz – structure, chord changes, tunefulness, and the like, and push the boundaries of dynamics, syncopation, tonal quality and musical adroitness. "Playing together" becomes a misnomer of sorts, as individuality reigns supreme. Yet, as the quartet bounces ideas off each other in this live, one-take recording, a certain synergy is created that coalesces on-the-spot concepts into a whole.

Except for interjected flashes of arrangement that adhere to each other as if attracted by a double-bass twang, a trombone blat, a jangling swoop of violin bow, or a breathy, high-pitched long tone from the sax, the players throw melody and harmony out the window. Four sets of ears and universal musical dexterity are turned loose to blip, bop, thwack, squeal, and blow raspberries of sorts. The music is dissonant, disjointed and loopy.

For example, there's the syncopated hide-and-seek sounds of "Kif-Kif"; and in "Vim," a hypnotic bleat from the "Twilight Zone"-y trombone dissolves into a cackling gaggle from the sax, as the asylum-bound violin and double-bass channel "Fantasia" on steroids. Each instrument darts in and out, playing with the beat in "Festooned," then, as if on cue, they halt, then career down a new path. This album is "out there."

Visit heathwatts.com.



www.Twang: *The Latest Twang*

Lead singer and rhythm guitarist Buck Buchanan and the boys are back. This terrific Bozeman-area combo's fourth album is packed with original country tunes from Buchanan and co-writers. He's joined on the effort by Marcus Engstrom, electric guitars, Michael Gillan, drums, Russ Olsen, bass and vocals, and Mike Parsons, fiddle and vocals. Carol Buchanan adds harmony vocals to Buck's lead on "A Fool with a Girl on His Mind."

The band made a personnel change when two original members of the group, Sandy Dodge (pedal steel) and Johnny Regan (drums), retired due to health problems. But their twangy sound carries on.

The long-time dance band plays numbers to get you up on your feet. There's a waltz with a sweet fiddle open ("Three Legged Dog"), and the loping "Trailer Park," with its shifting, infectious beat. It's about a man not too enamored with "hillbilly love." Ha!

"The Latest Thing" is a Chuck Berry rocker that bemoans the plastic music coming out of Nashville these days. It features a tight, shuffly beat and cool fiddle. "High-Heeled Gals" starts with the ambience of bar noises and a distant old-time fiddle that grows louder and sets up an "Asleep at the Wheel" atmosphere.

The ballad, "Lookin' for Someone New," with Olsen singing lead, has a slowly rockin' beat and nice harmonies. "Walk Away with Me" is an unhurried tender one with a unison riff to start. Engstrom plays a Fender Telecaster with reverb, delay, and tremolo to achieve that thick, deep "Boonanza" sound. Yow!

Parsons sings lead on the country-rock "Black Cadillac," belting out some bluesy bent notes. And "Ball and Chain" sounds like a retro '60s Roy Orbison pop-rocker with great duo harmony, and of course, lots of twangy guitar. After all, that's the name of the game for these fellas!

Visit www.twang.org.





10

How to submit a book for State of the Arts

To submit a book published in the past 12 months by a Montana author for inclusion in the About Books section of *State of the Arts*, email the following information to kristi@livelystories.com or mac@mt.gov:

- Title, author, publisher and month/year published;
- A brief description of the book (no more than 200 words), and a short bio of the author;
- A cover image: minimum 200 dpi in pdf or jpg format;
- If other publications or authors have reviewed the book, send a brief sampling of those remarks.

Books submitted to *State of the Arts* appear in this publication at the Montana Arts Council's discretion and as space permits, and will not necessarily be reprinted at Lively Times.com.

ABOUT BOOKS

Non-fiction/Memoir

The Tangled Tree, A Radical New History of Life

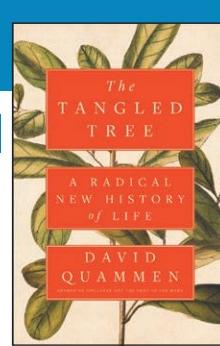
By David Quammen

In a book that was long-listed for the National Book Award for nonfiction, best-selling science writer David Quammen examines recent discoveries in molecular biology that have completely overturned the conventional understanding of evolution.

In the mid-1970s, scientists began using DNA sequences to reexamine the history of all life. Perhaps the most startling discovery to come out of this new field is the widespread horizontal gene transfer (HGT), or the movement of genes across species lines. In *The Tangled Tree*, Quammen chronicles these discoveries through the lives of the researchers who made them, such as Carl Woese, the most important little-known biologist of the 20th century; Lynn Margulis, the notorious maverick whose wild ideas about "mosaic" creatures proved to be true; and Tsutomu Wantanabe, who discovered that the scourge of antibiotic-resistant bacteria is a direct result of horizontal gene transfer, bringing the deep study of genome histories to bear on a global crisis in public health.

"There's no one who writes about complex science better than David Quammen," writes Elizabeth Kolbert, author of the Pulitzer Prize-winning *The Sixth Extinction*. "*The Tangled Tree* is at once fascinating, illuminating, and totally absorbing."

The Bozeman-based writer's 15 books include *The Song of the Dodo*, *The Reluctant Mr. Darwin*, and *Spillover*, a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle award.



Hearth, A Global Conversation on Community, Identity and Place

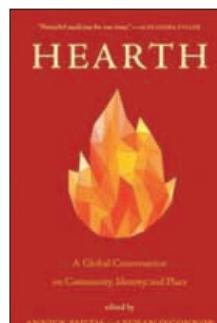
Edited by Susan O'Connor and Annick Smith

This multicultural anthology, edited by Montanans Susan O'Connor and Annick Smith with a foreword by Barry Lopez, explores the enduring importance and shifting associations of the hearth in our world.

A hearth is many things: a place for solitude; a source of identity; something we make and share with others; a history of ourselves and our homes. It is, in short, the perfect metaphor for what we seek in these complex and contradictory times – set in flux by climate change, mass immigration, the refugee crisis, and the dislocating effects of technology.

Featuring original contributions from cherished voices – including Terry Tempest Williams, Bill McKibben, Pico Iyer, Natasha Trethewey, Luis Alberto Urrea, and Chigozie Obioma – *Hearth* suggests that empathy and storytelling hold the power to unite us when we have wandered alone for too long.

Alexandra Fuller calls the anthology "powerful medicine for our time," as it challenges readers to redefine home and hearth as a place to welcome strangers, be generous, and care for the world beyond one's own experience. "Some of my favorite people on Earth are in this book, dear writers and grand spirits," writes Annie Dillard.



Walking into Silence

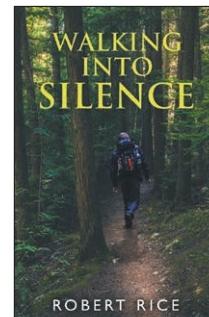
By Robert Rice

Author Robert Rice takes to the mountains after life crashes down around him – career and marriage, gone. Inspired by the teachings of mystics, he sets out on a solitary summer hike in the untamed wilderness of Montana.

Bearing first-hand witness to the life-and-death cycles that go on around him, a new sense of serenity and acceptance begins to occupy his inner space and, gradually, the frantic chattering in his mind is replaced by something more peaceful and life-affirming.

"He has a poet's eye for the telling detail and a novelist's surefooted sense of plot," writes Canadian poet Jan Zwicky. "This is an absorbing book: remarkably honest, filled with wry humor, and tremendously observant about wilderness – the death, beauty, terror, and serenity that are inseparably present in it ... I wanted to stay on the trail with Rice, to keep breathing that clear, clean, honest air."

Rice has also published five novels, from the highly acclaimed *The Last Pendragon* to the newest installment in his Arthurian saga, *From Every Bitter Thing*. Mysteries include *The Nature of Midnight* and *Killing the Skydancer*. He lives in the mountains south of Bozeman.



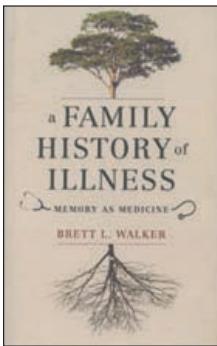
A Family History of Illness, Memory as Medicine

By Brett Walker

A scholar accustomed to examining the past, historian Brett L. Walker has been impacted by seeing his future.

Walker, who is also the winner of a prestigious Guggenheim Fellowship, nearly died from a sudden attack of what was later diagnosed as an immunological disease in early 2011. He was just 44. Encouraged by his doctors, he began searching for answers to how he contracted a life-threatening illness, which led him to search his family tree and scour his childhood memories for clues.

That search also led Walker to publish a book – his fifth – that is half-memoir and half-history, an entirely new genre for Walker ... and it led him to think about and understand memory and



history in an entirely different way.

His book braids writings about his own family's story with a history of common variable immunodeficiency, or CVID, and how it was discovered. He also discusses the science of epigenetics, or how gene expressions can be changed by experiences and the environment.

"Fascinating, literate, profound, wondrously variegated, harrowingly personal," writes David Quammen, author of *Spillover*.

— Excerpted from a story by Carol Schmidt, MSU News Service

Fiction

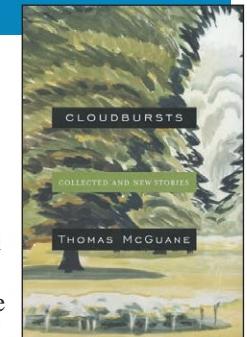
Cloudbursts, Collected and New Stories

By Thomas McGuane

For more than four decades, writer Thomas McGuane has been celebrated as a master of the short story, and this teeming collection reveals why. An extravagant deluge, *Cloudbursts* offers 38 stories from three previously published collections (*To Skin a Cat*, *Gallatin Canyon* and *Crow Fair*) plus seven new pieces. From the edge of the Great Lakes, to the prairies of eastern Montana to the deck of a sailboat on the Gulf of Mexico, McGuane deftly traverses a diverse landscape of scarred, eccentric and lonely psyches with elegance, mischief and mordant humor.

"*Cloudbursts* is clearly the product of a life's worth of thought and feeling and experience; it ought to be savored. That said, if you find yourself tearing through the book like a flash flood washing out a dirt road, I say go for it. You can always reread later, and you probably will," writes Justin Taylor in *The New York Times*.

McGuane, who lives in McLeod, has also written 10 novels and three works of non-fiction. He received a Governor's Arts Award for Montana in 1989.



A Sharp Solitude

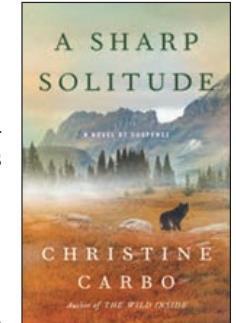
By Christine Carbo

In the darkening days of autumn, a woman's body is found in the isolated terrain near Glacier National Park. The victim was a journalist who had been interviewing reclusive researcher Reeve Landon about his work for a program that trains dogs to track scientific data. Now Reeve is the prime suspect.

Without friends or family to turn to, he seeks help from his ex-wife and mother of his young daughter, FBI agent Ali Paige. Although Ali is not assigned the case, she is deeply invested, driven by the idea that if she can find out what really happened, she might save Emily from the trauma of losing her father.

"Enthralling ... A skillful storyteller, Carbo highlights how the crimes of the past can forever haunt both victims and perpetrators," writes *Publishers Weekly*.

A Sharp Solitude is the fourth book in Carbo's Glacier Mystery Series, an ensemble set in northwest Montana. Her first novel, *The Wild Inside*, won the Women's National Book Association of New Orleans' Pinckley Prize and the Silver Falchion Award in 2016, and *Mortal Fall* received a High Plains Book Award for Best Women's Fiction in 2017.



Silent Hearts

By Gwen Florio

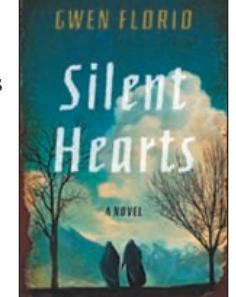
Missoula author and journalist Gwen Florio draws upon her own experience as a war correspondent in her latest novel, set in Afghanistan.

In 2001, Kabul is suddenly a place of possibility as people fling off years of repressive Taliban rule. This hopeful chaos brings together American aid worker Liv Stoellner and her interpreter, Farida Basra, an educated Pakistani woman.

Liv and her husband take positions with an aid organization that helps Afghan women recover from years of repressive Taliban rule. They see the move as a reboot – Martin for his moribund academic career, and Liv for their marriage. But for Farida and her husband, Gul, the move to Kabul is fraught, forcing her to sever ties with her family and former world, and driving Gul to confront a chapter in his life he'd desperately tried to erase.

The two women form a nascent friendship based on their growing mutual love for Afghanistan, and as their bond deepens, war-scarred Kabul acts in different ways upon them, as well as their husbands.

"A rich, haunting, immersive story of cultures at the crossroads – deeply moving," writes Jamie Ford, author of *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet*.



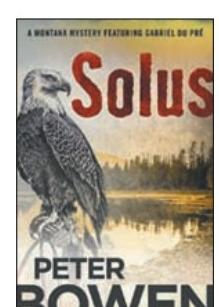
Solus

By Peter Bowen

Gabriel Du Pré, the Métis fiddle player and Montana lawman created by Livingston author Peter Bowen, returns in the 15th book of the series. The former cattle inspector and sometimes deputy comes to the aid of a hunted military whistleblower and his family, on the run from the henchmen of a billionaire military contractor – even though Du Pré already has his hands full with an ailing granddaughter, a meddling medicine man, and a Kazakh eagle hunter prowling the hills above town. But how long can the fugitive and his family lay low before mercenaries come to Toussaint, looking for trouble?

"Peter Bowen does for Montana what Tony Hillerman does for New Mexico," writes the *Midwest Book Review*. And *Booklist* calls the series "wonderfully eclectic and engaging."

In addition to his Gabriel Du Pré books, Bowen is the author of four historical novels based on the life of Luther Sage "Yellowstone" Kelly. He has lived most of his life in Montana, and writes, "I intend to live and die in the West, my native land, and write about it. It is what I do."



ABOUT BOOKS

Young Adult & Children

Danni

By Janet Muirhead Hill

This harrowing coming-of-age tale of Danni Beaumont, a high-school junior on probation and living in a group home, is fraught with action, tension and heartache. It sensitively handles the issues of betrayal, gang rape, unwanted pregnancy and those times when one is presented with nothing but hard choices.

When her dying mother charges Danni with caring for her younger sister, the teenager takes the task to heart, even after being betrayed by a trusted girlfriend.

This sequel to Hill's book, *The Body in the Freezer*, continues Danni's odyssey, and that of her friend, Captain. It's Danni, however, who has to endure whatever life throws at her until she is 18 and "timed out" of foster care. She comes off the page as a strong girl, verging on womanhood, who overcomes obstacles while keeping secrets to protect her sister.

I was impressed with the author's attempt to present both sides of the pro-life/pro-choice debate in a story that's bound to be a good resource for teens, teachers, parents, foster parents and case managers.

Hill has published 15 other books for young adults and children. She lives and writes from her home near Norris.



— LK Willis

A Culture of Courage, A Historical Novel

By Jackson T. Redmon

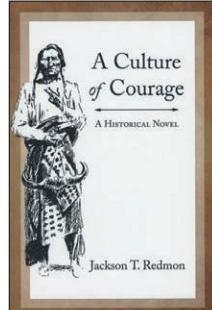
Moksois works his way through his manhood survival test to become Knows No Fear, a warrior and then a chief of his Hunkpapa band of Sioux.

Jackson Redmon's detailed descriptions include techniques for survival in 1846 as Moksois seeks a new hunting ground for his band. He continues with lessons learned in the increasingly complex world of conflict between tribes and the ever-growing impact of white settlement.

The author weaves fact and fiction through the decades of the 1800s and includes a timeline from 1780 through 1876's battle at Little Big Horn, as well as a glossary of Sioux words.

This is a good book for anyone interested in a glimpse into tribal life. Teenage readers – especially boys – may be tantalized by the displays of courage, strategy and wisdom of the main character and his companions.

Redmon, who lives in Livingston, backs his writing with rich life experiences and an appreciation for the history and culture of Plains Indians.



— LK Willis

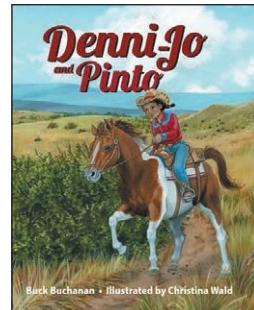
Denni-Jo and Pinto

By Buck Buchanan; illustrated by Christina Wald

Spirited 7-year-old buckaroo Denni-Jo, atop her frisky pony Pinto, gets permission to ride across her family's ranch to visit her grandparents. But the journey isn't as easy as it sounds. Along the way they get scared by a rattlesnake, spooked by a runaway jackrabbit, and even find a calf stuck in a mud hole. Can Denni-Jo's riding and roping skills save the calf before the worried momma cow closes in?

"The determined cowgirl has to use all she's learned growing up on the ranch to navigate her way around dangerous situations, follow the right trail, and help an animal in trouble ... Inspiring and just plain fun to read whether you're 7 or 57," writes *Cowgirl Magazine*.

Buck Buchanan, a singer/songwriter with the popular band www. Twang, taught eighth-grade science for 22 years and now works as a brand inspector. Raised on a cattle ranch in southwest Idaho, he says this story is based on the skill set of a real cowgirl. Christina Wald's colorful illustrations gallop across the page, capturing the flavor and fun of western life. Learn more about the precocious cowgirl at www.denni-jo.com.



Hope Mountain Fox Trails

By Karla Martinson

Pablo artist Karla Martinson spent much of her childhood roaming the Montana woods with her family, spending weeks each summer in a hand-sewn tent and learning to shoot a longbow. She translates her kinship with the wild world and her passion for painting into children's books.

The first, *Hope Mountain Wild Bird Rescue*, tells the tale of a kind ranger who rescues young birds after a storm. The second, *Hope Mountain Fox Trails*, returns to Hope Mountain to explore the hidden hideaways and trails made by forest creatures. Two playful fox kits pounce and prance their way through four seasons, discovering the dangers and delights of their mountain home.

The books, with their singsong text and lush illustrations, are full of animal antics sure to delight young readers.

The author and illustrator also enjoys exploring technology, and has produced her own children's musical art video, "Time to Dance," a remake of the old Scottish tune, "Three Crows Sat Upon a Wall." It's available on the YouTube channel smartblonde82.



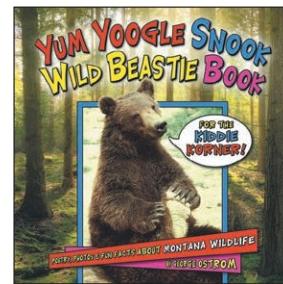
Yum Yoogle Snook, Wild Beastie Book

By George Ostrom

George Ostrom's knowledge of nature comes from 90 years of close association with wild creatures in their world. With his new release, *Yum Yoogle Snook: Wild Beastie Book*, Ostrom shares inventive and whimsical

poems full of fun facts. Wildlife photography (also by Ostrom) showcases Montana's most recognizable furry and feathered residents in 24 packed pages of wild designs and fanciful rhymes.

The longtime columnist for the *Hungry Horse News*, radio personality, newsman and photographer is also the author of *Glacier's Secrets I and II* and *Wondrous Wildlife*.



Kid Poems

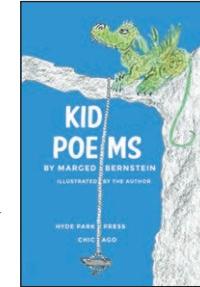
By Marged Bernstein

Prior to moving to north-central Montana, poet, dancer, choreographer and yoga teacher Marged Bernstein lived with her family in New York City and Mendoza, Argentina. On the book jacket of her newest collection, she notes that the transition has made her feel "more connected than ever with the wilds and joys of nature and the universe."

This connection to one's surroundings is evident throughout, as Bernstein strips away all of the frills to create an essential collection for, and about, young readers. Youngsters meet a dragon and a cookie-loving-under-the-bed monster in poems that capture the essence of a child's imagination. Other pieces use rich images to encapsulate universal childhood moments such as riding a horse, making snow angels, playing games on a rainy day, and having a pet. Still others focus on social justice, such as "Stevie," in which the narrator quietly realizes for the first time the devastating impacts of racism when an African American boy moves to town.

Ranging from wishful and contemplative to playful and unassuming, this compilation is approachable for the young and young at heart.

— Brynn Cadigan



Poetry

Moving On, The Last Poems of Ed Lahey

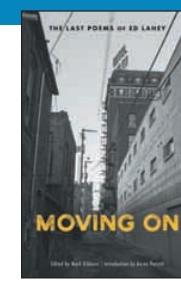
Edited by Mark Gibbons

Ed Lahey (1936 – 2011) achieved renown as one of Montana's finest poets, earning much critical acclaim for his books *The Blind Horses* and *Birds of a Feather*. His poetry reflects a deep commitment to Butte, to Montana, to the working class, and to an intellectual tradition that reaches back to the ancient Greeks.

Drumlummon Institute has published this final book of poetry by the "Bard of Butte" and "The Old Miner King of Poetry." Lahey received the Governor's Arts Award in 2008 in honor of his poetic genius. When he died in 2011, his friend and fellow poet Mark Gibbons cleaned out his apartment and saved every scrap of paper he found, sorted through boxes of them, and distilled the last of Lahey's writings into this collection, *Moving On*.

Since its publication in July, Gibbons and Lahey's fellow poets and close friends Dave Thomas, Robert Lee, Roger Dunsmore and Sheryl Noethe, along with Aaron Parrett (executive director of Drumlummon and author of the introduction to *Moving On*), have recited Lahey's work at standing-room-only events in Missoula, Butte, Helena and Billings.

"Any way you look at it, this is poetry at its literary, earthly, Montana, otherworldly best," writes poet Paul Zarzyski.



Your Person Doesn't Belong To You

By Isabel Sobral Campos

In her new book, poet and professor Isabel Sobral Campos gives voice to both the historical Joan of Arc and the fictional version as imagined in the 1928 film by Carl Dreyer, "The Passion of Joan of Arc."

"Alchemical in its commitment to giving sonic shape to the near imperceptible, *Your Person Doesn't Belong To You* is mesmerizing, moving and strange," writes poet Anselm Berrigan.

"It is hard to believe that this work is Campos's first book of poetry," writes Udita Banerjee in *Neon Books*, "because the poems come with the depth and finesse of a much more experienced poet."

Campos is an assistant professor of literature at Montana Tech of the University of Montana. She is the co-founder of the Sputnik & Fizzle publishing series and editor of the forthcoming anthology, *Ecopoetics and the Global Landscape: Critical Essays*. Her scholarly essays have appeared in *The Emily Dickinson Journal*, *The Quarterly Review of Film and Video*, and *Evental Aesthetics*.



Cookbooks

The Big Sky Bounty Cookbook, Local Ingredients and Rustic Recipes

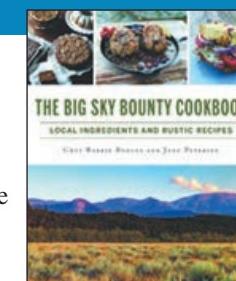
By Barry Boulds and Jean Petersen

Chef Barrie Boulds and author Jean Petersen present locally sourced epicurean dishes that exude Montanan charm in their new cookbook.

From mountain streams in the west to rolling prairies in the east, Montana's habitats and natural resources offer an abundance of culinary possibilities. The mountains provide the necessities for an elk tenderloin with huckleberry demi-glace, while the prairie contributes to rattlesnake cakes with roasted red-pepper remoulade. And gardens and farms statewide produce the makings of Aunt Lois O'Toole's rhubarb strawberry pie.

Historical context enhances 75 easy-yet-sophisticated recipes celebrating unique flavors and heritage. The book includes forewords from Chef Eric Trager and *Western Ag Reporter* editor Linda Grosskopf.

Boulds, a Montana-born chef, brings more than 28 years of experience to her chef and catering business in the Yellowstone area and has served clientele from celebrities to presidents. Petersen is a columnist with *Western Ag Reporter* and nonfiction children's author.



11

Podcast: Breakfast in Montana

For the past century, Montana and its writers have produced many of the most influential books to come out of the West. Breakfast in Montana is a new podcast that features two Montana writers, Russell Rowland and Aaron Parrett, discussing two Montana books per episode in an effort to explore what it is about this state that inspires so much fine literature.

In each episode, Rowland and Parrett discuss one book from the past and one contemporary book, in hopes of giving some of the rising stars more of a platform for their work, as well as bringing new life to some books that are in danger of being forgotten.

Among the podcasts currently available are episodes on Kate Cholewa (*Shaking Out the Dead*) and Dorothy Johnson (*The Hanging Tree*); Natalie Peeterse (*Black Birds: Blue Horse*) and Frieda Fligelman (*Notes for a Novel*); and David Abrams (*Brave Deeds*) and Richard K. O'Malley (*Mile High Mile Deep*). An episode still in the works pairs Mary MacLane (*I Await the Devil's Coming*) and Melissa Stephenson (*Driven: A White-knuckled Ride to Heartbreak and Back*).

Tune in at [breakfastinmontana.com](http://fastinmontana.com).



"Flathead Vest – Father and Son" by Jaune Quick-to-See Smith

Governor's Arts Awards (from page 7)

Her nature essays and travel articles have appeared in such publications as *Orion*, *Outside*, *Audubon*, *National Geo Traveler*, *Travel & Leisure*, *The New York Times*, and regional magazines, as well as in literary journals such as *TriQuarterly*. Her fiction has been published in *Story* magazine and her story, "It's Come to This," appeared in *Best American Short Stories 1992*, won a National Magazine Award for short fiction, and has been widely anthologized.

She is co-editor with Susan O'Connor of a new multicultural anthology, *Hearth: A Global Conversation About Community, Identity, and Place*, published by Milkweed Editions in September. Other collaborations include *The Last Best Place*, an invaluable and lasting contribution to Montana's literary landscape, co-edited with her longtime companion, William Kittredge, and *The Wide Open: Prose, Poems, and Photographs of the Prairie*, also co-edited with O'Connor.

Smith's memoir, road trip and dog book, *Crossing the Plains with Bruno*, was published in 2015. Other books include an earlier memoir, *Homestead*, a collection of essays, *In This We are Native*, and a book about Oklahoma's tall grass prairies, *Big Bluestem*.

Of her creative process, Smith writes, "I like to always have a project going – and most of my projects take years to complete. Although my greatest joy is to work in isolation and be so deeply involved I forget the passage of time, I am also a person who loves collaboration. This explains why I made movies, organized literary centers and events, and worked on anthologies with fellow writers and editors."

Her recent essay, "Still the Last Best Place?" (published in *Montana Magazine* and the *Missoulian*) addresses the changes and challenges over the 30 years since the publication of *The Last Best Place*, and documents her continuing engagement with the most topical and pressing issues facing our state.

Author Debra Magpie Earling describes Smith as "a bedazzling remarkable presence in our state. The Montana literary landscape would not be the last best place without her vision, her talent, her laudable beloved memoirs, and her truly inspiring love of the land."

Pat and Carol Williams celebrate her tenacity, and contributions to literature and the humanities. "During the past almost half century she has honed her writing and filmmaking perceptions the old-fashioned way: though building a homestead and managing the land, writing poems and stories, raising four boys alone, editing, assembling words and stories, and saying 'yes' to the many requests to serve the humanities through engaging in study groups, conferences and workshops."

And Rick Bass, also among this year's

Governor's Arts Award recipients, describes Smith as "a unique combination of Montana feist and Parisian elegance."

"May we all aspire to some semblance or percentage of her unique combination of spirit, talent, strength, honesty, passion, and – perhaps hardest of all – vulnerability," he writes. "She is an ambassador for our state and our regions: the finest, best, most compassionate and intelligent we have."



Jaune Quick-to-See Smith
(Photo by Thomas King)

Jaune Quick-to-See Smith, Artist

"My tribe is the biggest influence in my work. How my tribe values the natural world, how they treat the animals and wildlife that reside there. How they treat our relations and value the children as well as their respect for elders. This and more impacts my work in the largest way."

Jaune Quick-To-See Smith was born in St. Ignatius and grew up on the Flathead Reservation, and is an enrolled member of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes. As a child, she traveled the Pacific Northwest and California with her father, a Salish-Metis horse trader, trainer and rodeo rider.

"He taught me to observe nature, whether it was a hawk in the sky, the gait of a horse or tracks in the snow. His words and teachings follow me."

She attended Olympic College in Bremerton and the University of Washington in Seattle before earning her bachelor's at Framingham State College, MA, and a master's degree at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, all with the steady encouragement of her husband, Andy Ambrose: "still my biggest fan and helpmate."

One of the most acclaimed American Indian artists today, Smith has had more than 100 solo exhibits in the past 40 years and has produced printmaking projects nationwide. Over that same time, she has organized and/or curated more than 30 Native exhibitions, and lectured around the world.

Montana artist Anne Appleby calls Smith "a national treasure for her brilliance and

devotion to art and the human community."

The artist describes herself as "a fervent researcher. When I start a painting, I cannot fully commit to it until I read and search for information about whatever the subject is, wherever the painting is headed."

She has completed several collaborative public art works such as the floor design in the Great Hall of the Denver International Airport; an in-situ sculpture piece in Yerba Buena Park in San Francisco; and a mile-long sidewalk history trail in West Seattle.

Her many awards include the Governor's Outstanding New Mexico Woman's Award and the New Mexico Governor's Award for Excellence in the Arts; Visionary Woman Award from Moore College; and Living Artist of Distinction Award from the Georgia O'Keeffe Museum. She's also received honorary doctorates from the Minneapolis College of Art and Design, Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, Massachusetts College of Art and the University of New Mexico.

Her work is in collections worldwide, including those of the Museum of Modern Art, Quito; the Museum of Mankind, Vienna; the Victoria and Albert Museum, London; The Walker, Minneapolis, MN; Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, DC; and the Museum of Modern Art, the Brooklyn Museum, the Metropolitan and the Whitney Museum, New York City.

Although she has long resided in New Mexico, she says, "Montana is always where I circle back to."

"I often paint Flathead symbols in six-feet scale such as bison, horses, canoes, men's vests, women's cutwing dresses and tipis filled with newspaper clippings from our tribal newspaper, the *Char-Koosta*," she writes. "No way can this work be mistaken for none other than 'The Last Best Place.'"

She's produced several curatorial projects here and was a founder of Montana Indian Contemporary Art, an organization that promoted original art making and events on reservations in Montana.

She has donated 45 artworks to the Missoula Art Museum, which became the cornerstone for MAM's Contemporary American Indian Art Collection.

"Jaune has been on the forefront of bringing contemporary Native art into the contemporary art of the world," notes MAM Executive Director Laura Millin, who nominated her the Governor's Arts Award.

Cameron Decker, head of the Fine Arts Department at Salish Kootenai College in Pablo, introduces students to Smith's work in his class in Contemporary American Indian Art History.

"I introduce her for inspiration," he writes. "Inspiration that I felt upon seeing my first large-scale painting of hers' some time ago in a museum in New Mexico. The kind of inspiration that gives us hope for the future of Native people. Hope that drives us as Salish people forward, realizing the possibilities for our expression and voice."

MAM's 47th annual Benefit Art Auction

The Missoula Art Museum invites the public to celebrate free expression and free admission at the 47th annual Benefit Art Auction, Feb. 2 at the University Center. This year's auction is driven by the museum's commitment to freedom of thought, conscience, cultural expression, and intellectual inquiry.

MAM received more than 240 artist submissions that were narrowed through a rigorous jury process to 32 artworks for the live auction and 48 silent auction selections, representing a vast range of artists and types of artworks. The exhibit of artworks opens with an artists' reception during First Friday, 5-8 p.m. Jan. 4. Other highlights include Connecting Collectors Game Night, 6:30 p.m. Jan. 15; and the Benefit Art Auction, 5:30-9:30 p.m. Feb. 6 at the University Center Ballroom.

The purchase of live and silent auction artworks supports all of MAM's core programs and exhibitions. Each year, MAM showcases works by more than 200 local, regional, and national artists and offers free educational programs to all schools in northwest Montana. Tickets may be purchased at missoulaartmuseum.org.

AUCTION ACTION

YAM Auction offers three events

The Yellowstone Art Museum's 51st annual Art Auction offers three distinct events, beginning Jan. 25 with cocktails and a Quick Finish and Silent Auction. View all the live and silent auction works and bid on quick-finish works by well-known artists such as Sonja Caywood, Mike Caskey, Louis Habeck and many more. This event also boasts an additional one-night-only silent auction.

On March 8, stop by the museum for the artist meet-and-greet and the last chance to purchase work from the silent auction in "buy-it-now" fashion.

Art Auction 51 – the longest-running and most diverse art auction in the region – is March 9 and offers works by a host of renowned artists, including Rudy Autio, Ben Pease, Larry Pirnie, Ted Waddell and many more. The auction gala begins at 5 p.m. and features heavy hors d'oeuvres catered by Thomas Nelson Catering. Live Auction bidding commences at 7 p.m. and will include a raffle drawing for jewelry donated by Montague's Jewelers.

Advance tickets to all three Yellowstone Art Auction 51 events go on sale Jan. 2 online and at the museum. For prices and to bundle events tickets, contact: Carolyn Tolton at 406-256-6804.

Famous painting consigned to The Russell auction

The acclaimed Charles M. Russell oil painting, "Approach of White Men," has been consigned to The Russell live auction on March 23. The painting, along with watercolors, drawings and sculptures by Russell and other historic and contemporary western artists, will be on display Feb. 22-March 21 at the museum in Great Falls, culminating in The Russell: An Exhibition and Sale to Benefit the C.M. Russell Museum, March 21-23.

The signature fundraising event for the non-profit museum includes the Art Preview Party on Thursday at the museum; and Art in Action Friday at Meadowlark Country Club, followed by the First Strike Auction at the Mansfield Convention Center. Saturday brings a free Russell Educational Symposium, The Russell Runway Show and The Russell Live Auction. For details, call 406-727-8787 or visit www.cmrusSELL.org.

The Russell is the centerpiece for Western Art Week, which coincides with the birthday of the famed western artist. From March 20-24, the Electric City hosts more than 17 shows and 750 artists in a variety of events including music, quick draws, auctions, and educational symposiums. Check visitgreatfallsmt.org/event/western-art-week.

ABOUT VISUAL ARTISTS

Georgine Lisa Archer, "The Art of Silk"

Dec. 1-Jan. 31 at the Missoula Artists' Shop

Artist's website: lasilks.com

Georgine Lisa Archer of Lisa Archer Silks combines the exquisite colors of nature with the fibers of silk to create an elegant line of fashions, home décor and wedding items.

Each piece begins with white silk, which she stretches onto frames, and begins to paint with vibrant, custom-mixed dyes. Feathers, flowers and stones often inspire her custom designs.

Archer grew up in New Jersey, attended the Barbizon School of Fashion Merchandising and Design, and worked in modeling and fashion merchandising in New York City.

She and her husband moved to Montana in 2001. "I was so taken by the natural colors and dramatic scenery of the Bitterroot Valley that I wanted to convey or transfer that unique beauty to fabric," Archer told the *Ravalli Republic*. "That's when I began to design and hand-paint silk clothing. I wanted to give women, in particular, wearable art that would be elegant, yet practical and versatile."

She took her first Montana-inspired creations – a series of deep blue, green and brown silk scarves – to the local farmers' market and promptly sold all eight of them. "I was clearly on to something," she says.

The artist has carefully developed and refined her process over several years. Her product line, also on display at her shop and studio in downtown Stevensville, includes flutter jackets, scarves, fringe shawls, opera coats, shoulder caplets, wedding chupahs and keepsakes, pet memory pillows, wall art, church banners and other accessories.

Sheila Miles: "From Here to There"

Dec. 20-March 29 at Paris Gibson Square Museum of Art in Great Falls, with a public reception and ArtShare, 5-7 p.m. Jan. 24, and a workshop, "Approaches to Painting," Jan. 26

Artist's website: artistmiles.com

Sheila Miles begins her paintings with a photograph or a memory that the artist curates into a mysterious yet familiar scene. These portrayals are created through relatively simple concepts that pull from the artist's professional training and imagination.

Blocks of color are broken up by light and shadow to create the illusion of depth on flat surfaces.

The artist's aptitude for impressionism, surrealism and abstraction is reflected in her interpretations, yet the viewer is transported to a distinguishable locale. Her compositions often feature colorful houses, interesting buildings, stark western landscapes and, more recently, figures.

She notes that she enjoys the history contained in the surface of a painting and is "interested in how long it takes the eye to move through the painting to get from here to there, or left to right and front to back. Sweeping or fading colors stopped by something in the way will stop the eye and make the viewer pause."

Miles has crisscrossed the West imprinting a distinct and prolific record of her journey through her art. She decided to be an artist as a child and has been painting professionally for over 40 years. After high school she studied at Purdue University, where she earned both her undergraduate and master's degrees in painting and drawing in just three-and-a-half years. At 23 she was director of the Provincetown Art Center, followed by a stint as a visual and performing artist in New York City before moving to Laurel in 1979.

She spent 26 years in Montana, creating and working in the arts. She served as the curator of art at the Yellowstone Art Center (now the Yellowstone Art Museum), and taught in the art departments at Montana State University-Billings, MSU in Bozeman and the University of Montana in Missoula. Miles was also a Montana Arts Council artist in residence in Miles City, traveled to Montana Indian Reservations to teach K-12 students, and taught in one-room schoolhouses across the prairies of eastern Montana. From 1995-2000 she also taught for the Missoula Art Museum and was briefly director of exhibitions at the Montana Museum of Art and Culture at UM in Missoula.



Silk clothing by Georgine Lisa Archer

Linda Cohen, "Steampunk Industrial"

Through January at Zootown Arts Community Center in Missoula, with a reception 5:30-8:30 p.m. Jan. 11

Artist's website: www.lindacohendesigns.com

Linda Cohen, whose work fills the Hallway Gallery, is a mixed-media artist who developed her sense of color, texture and innovation while working as a professional floral designer.

A passion for rust and gears was ignited when she discovered Steampunk, a style that incorporates elements of Victorian and industrial aesthetics with repurposed, up-cycled and unexpected materials. "Anything goes," she says, including working clocks, circuit boards, Tyvec, scrap metal, and occasionally silk flowers and doilies.

"I truly enjoy evoking reactions from people with my art, especially humor and curiosity."

Jadyn Velazquez, whose work is on display in the Main Gallery in "Post Modern Realities," pursued blacksmithing for 10 years, before earning her MFA in set design at the University of Montana. Creating a model in miniature scale and then building the set inspired her to create tiny scenes, while years spent moving around the United States fueled her interest in depicting dilapidated sheds and houses.

"I like to recreate past places I have seen," she writes, "the ravaged and worn houses that tell a story of the past residents."



"Motherboard" by Linda Cohen

Trudy Skari, "Balance"

March 1-31 at 4 Ravens Gallery, Missoula

Artist's website: trudyskari.wordpress.com

Trudy Skari has a diverse background that contributes to the flavor of her ceramic sculpture. Born into a road-building family, she spent her childhood roaming Montana. After graduating from MSU Bozeman, she worked at Massachusetts College of Art and Design and maintained a studio in Boston, where she was active in performance arts groups and worked in multimedia sculpture.

Upon returning to Montana, Skari served as director of the Liberty Village Arts Center in Chester, where she and her husband ran a successful farming operation. She also served as a county commissioner, and currently works for the State of Montana while maintaining a studio in Big Arm.

The pieces in "Balance" reflect her efforts to create harmony out of experience. "The animals I form from clay are evolved characters of storytelling. They may be the solutions to a riddle, or a resident in a dream, or the dog next door. They share our reality and influence us in ways we may not be totally aware of," she writes.

She appreciates her encounters with animals in the wild: "a quick glimpse, a movement, that momentary startle, the recognition that we share this encounter in many different ways."

She's influenced by Joseph Campbell's exploration of dream and myth and the richness of ancient cultures. Working in a gestural style, "I use clay as a means to express enough of the idea to be recognizable but vague enough for the character and wit of the piece to maintain a presence, either subtle or otherwise."



"Fox" by Trudy Skari

Pamela Harr Legacy Trail

Ongoing in downtown Glendive

Artist's website: www.bridgerbronze.com

Several sculptures created by Pamela C. Harr grace Merrill Ave. in downtown Glendive. The bronze sculptor, who was inducted into the National Cowgirl Hall of Fame in 1981, has made it her mission to leave a legacy of her monumental work in her hometown.

Of the sculptures she's completed she says "The Price," a sculpture depicting a woman holding her drowned child "is the work I feel most passionate about." She created a smaller version in 1975 and eventually created the larger-than-life version, dedicated "to people who have lost children."

Other gifts to the city include "Born to Hunt," commissioned by the Milne family in memory of Ty Milne; "Waiting for the School Bus," depicting three dogs sitting next to a mailbox and located in front of the high school; and "To the Color," portraying a soldier blowing a bugle, and situated front of the Eastern Montana Veterans Home. She recently installed two sculptures of life-sized children and their pets on Glendive's Towne Street Bridge, and plans to add two more as part of her ambitious goal of making Glendive an art-lovers destination.

Along with her husband, Harvey Rattey, Harr owns Bridger Bronze Gallery in Glendive; the couple has been making original western and wildlife bronze sculptures for 37 years.



"The Price" (for Narcissa Whitman) by Pamela Harr

13

Send your submissions for About Visual Arts

With About Visual Arts, *State of the Arts* continues to profile living Montana artists (no students, please), whose work is the focus of a current exhibit in Montana (on display during some portion of the three months covered by the current issue of *State of the Arts*).

Submissions must include:

- A digital image of the artist's work, with title of the piece (at least 200 dpi and 500kb);
- A brief bio and description of the artist's work;
- Dates and title of exhibit; and
- The gallery or museum name, town and phone number.

MAC will select submissions that reflect a cross-section of gender, geography, styles and ethnicity, and are from a mix of public and private galleries and museums.

Submissions for the Spring issue (April-June) are due March 1; send to Kristi@livelytimes.com with About Visual Arts in the subject line.



ARTS EDUCATION

Grantee Spotlight: Livingston Jazz Festival

By Monica Grable
Arts Education Director

For Garrett Stannard, director of bands at Park High School in Livingston, providing his students with access to jazz experiences in the classroom was the foundation from which an ambitious multi-faceted event could be built. Armed with a vision that would extend into the Livingston community and involve professional jazz musicians from across the country, Stannard set out to fully engage his students with a deep dive into world-class jazz artistry and to provide a significant behind-the-scenes performing arts learning experience.

Supported by a grant from the Montana Arts Council's Artists in Schools and Communities (AISC) program, Park High School hosted its second consecutive Livingston Jazz Festival – two days of super-charged learning experiences for high school students, shared by the community – on Nov. 16-17. Each day of the two-day festival was comprised of a full slate of education sessions, master classes, performances by student musicians and guest artists, and jam sessions held well into the evenings.

Music students from Park's numerous jazz groups participated in the festival together with ensembles from Belgrade, Bozeman and Montana State University, while students from nearby Gardiner attended along with members of the community to observe the captivating sessions.

Between noon and 4 p.m. each day, 10 guest artists served as clinicians, critiquing and working with ensembles. They also led workshops and master classes on topics such as beginning or advanced improvisation, big



The Park High School Jazz Ensemble plays at the 2018 Livingston Jazz Festival. (Photo by Melanie Maganias Nashan)

band drumming, instrument tips and tricks, the history of music from Africa and jazz composition. Wrapping up the afternoon sessions at 4 p.m. each day was an *Informance* session—a chance to meet, hear from, and converse with the artists.

Evenings of the Livingston Jazz Festival turned into an all-community affair, with a public concert each night featuring the festival's guest artists and Park High School's top jazz ensemble as the opener. Capping off the evenings were late-night jam sessions held in a downtown community-filled venue where students were given the rare opportunity to build their chops by playing alongside the pros – an experience sure to be remembered for life.

A highlight moment of one such session, Stannard recalled, was that of a brave freshman student who'd found himself struggling to work through an improvisation that could have easily been taken over by one of the guest artists. Instead, that artist leaped

from the audience to come to the student's aid, humbly and quietly coaching him along throughout the remainder of the piece.

Throughout the festival, students also learned experientially about the business of performing arts presenting. Twenty-five students – many of whom served as managers or deputy managers in their respective areas of responsibility – held key positions overseeing crucial elements of the festival: facilities and equipment, promotion, hospitality, and sound and lighting.

Lead students in sound and lighting learned from tech professionals the day prior to the festival and subsequently led their own

crews on festival days. In addition, students maintained a welcome/check-in desk and acted as "runners," guiding guests as needed, with one student acting as a "second in command" operating officer, freeing her director to engage with guest artists, supporters, and members of the community.

The adage "it takes a village" could not more aptly apply to the Livingston Jazz Festival. In this second year, the Park High School jazz department saw its web of support grow exponentially, from parent and community volunteers to in-kind donations of food and lodging, to an increase in monetary donations.

What's more, a growing awareness of, and support for, the bands has taken root, encouraging new goals on the horizon. Currently the PHS Jazz Ensemble is working to fund its way to the All-Northwest Music Festival in Portland this coming February.

To learn more about Park High School's fantastic band program, visit parkhighbands.org.

Creative Youth Development

Student voices find expression

By Monica Grable
Arts Education Director

Creative Youth Development (CYD) is a relatively recent term used to define an arts education practice that has been at work for decades. Built on the basic tenet that young people thrive when their creative potential is realized, a national movement of late has produced a groundswell of attention nationally for CYD programs.

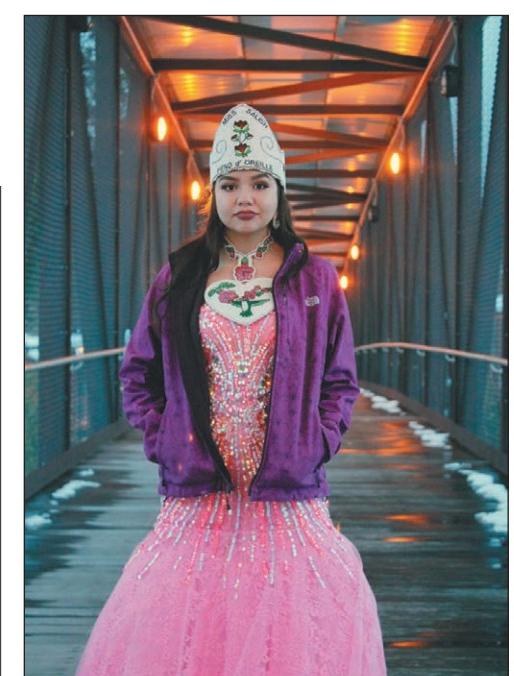
The Creative Youth Development National Partnership – a combined effort on behalf of hundreds of stakeholders by the National Guild for Community Arts Education, Mass Cultural Council and Americans for the Arts – defines CYD as "a longstanding theory of practice that integrates creative skill-building, inquiry, and expression with positive youth development principles, fueling young

people's imaginations and building critical learning and life skills."

Here, in Montana, there are numerous highly successful CYD programs that have offered students the opportunity to have their voice heard through the arts. The following are a few programs that deserve to be highlighted:

- **A VOICE:** Founded in 2006 by photographer David J. Spear and Polson native Jill L. Erickson, A VOICE is based in Pablo. Central to their work is the project Our Community Record Two Eagle River School (TERS), a collaboration between David Spear and students at the tribal middle and high school serving Native American students living on the Flathead Reservation.

Continued on next page



Portrait of Lene, 2017/18 Miss Salish, by A VOICE student Esperanza Orozco Charlo

Artists in Schools and Communities grant cycle opens



Artist and MAC member Corky Clairmont leads the Fifth Grade Art Experience at the Missoula Art Museum.

For more than 40 years, grants have been awarded to Montana organizations and schools through the Artists in Schools and Communities (AISC) program. Funded by a combination of National Endowment for the Arts and State of Montana funds, this program aims to reach communities small and large statewide, with special emphasis on underserved populations.

Through matching funds, the AISC program supports a wide range of arts learning experiences for all ages through short- and long-term artist residencies with professional artists. Applications to the Grants \$1500-\$5,000 and Grants Under \$1,500 categories are open to all eligible applicants, while Arts Learning Partner grants are made available only to eligible arts organizations with an extended reach and significant AISC grant history.

All applicants are strongly encouraged to discuss their proposal with Monica Grable, Arts Education Director, prior to applying. She can be reached at Monica.Grable@mt.gov or 406-444-6522.

Artists in Schools and Communities 2019 Timeline:

- Jan. 18: Guidelines posted to MAC website: art.mt.gov
- Jan. 28: All AISC grants open for applications
- March 25: Arts Learning Partners applications due
- April 15: Grants \$1,500-\$5,000 applications due
- May 1: Grants Under \$1500 applications due
- Mid-May (date TBD): AISC Review Panel meets
- June 8: Panel recommendations presented to the Montana Arts Council

Montanans honored with Governor's Humanities Awards

Five Montanans will be recognized during the Governor's Humanities Awards Ceremony at 3 p.m. Feb. 7 in the State Capitol Rotunda, Helena. Honorees are Stephenie Ambrose Tubbs, Helena; Ellen Crain, Butte; Tami Haaland, Billings; Thomas McGuane, McLeod; Elizabeth McNamer, Billings. The ceremony is free and open to the public.

"We are lucky to have such wonderful individuals across the state who ensure that Montanans have access to, and engage in, art, literature and our unique cultural heritage," said Governor Steve Bullock. "Congratulations to these awardees for devoting decades of their lives to supporting and promoting the humanities."

The 2019 honorees represent the full range of humanities accomplishments:

- **Stephenie Ambrose Tubbs** is a historian and public humanities presenter who is well-known for her books on the Lewis and Clark Expedition, including *Why Sacagawea Deserves the Day Off: Lessons from the Lewis and Clark Trail*.

- **Ellen Crain** is the long-time director of the Butte-Silver Bow Archives who is an expert on Butte's history and led the campaign to refurbish the current Archives building, a model of historic preservation.

- **Tami Haaland** is a statewide leader on poetry education who has served as Montana's poet laureate and volunteers extensively in the Billings area to encourage literary engagement among citizens of all ages and backgrounds.

- **Thomas McGuane** is an award-winning,



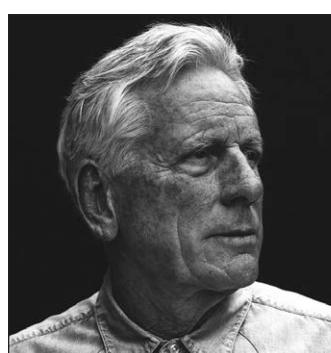
Stephanie Ambrose Tubbs



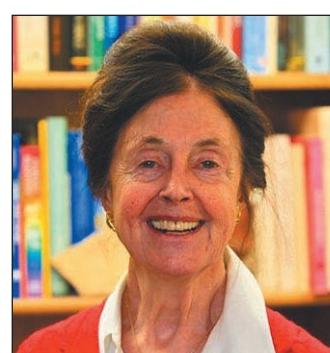
Ellen Crain



Tami Haaland



Thomas McGuane



Elizabeth McNamer

Celebrate
Humanities honorees
during an awards
ceremony Feb. 7 at
the Capitol and a
banquet at the
Radisson Colonial
Inn in Helena

nationally prominent writer who has captured Montana in all its complexity in his novels, short stories, and essays.

- **Elizabeth McNamer** is a religious studies professor at Rocky Mountain College who has introduced Montana students to archeology in Israel and Montana citizens to literature through her public radio programs.

A banquet follows the ceremony, with no-

host cocktails at 6 p.m. and a dinner and program at 7 p.m. at the Radisson Colonial Inn. Actor and rancher Bill Pullman will provide the keynote address.

Banquet tickets are on sale now at Humanities Montana's website, humanities.org. Call Humanities Montana at 406-243-6022 or e-mail info@humanitiesmontana.org for further information.

Student voices find expression (from previous page)

Through storytelling and photographic studies, Our Community Record seeks to teach these students to explore and document their community, culture and history.

In David Spear's words, A VOICE "strives to excite students and to fill some of the voids in their lives by instilling self-awareness and building self-confidence, guiding them to recognize their inner creativity and strengths and encouraging them to express themselves and develop their unique voice."

• **Art for Survival, Holter Museum of Art:** Art for Survival was created in the spring of 2017 when the Holter Museum of Art's education staff became aware of the needs of Helena teens through the After-School Teen Arts Council. The Holter staff developed this visual arts and writing workshop allowing teens to work with artists to explore ways to use visual arts and writing to help them navigate life.

The Helena community has experienced

seven teen suicides in the past five years. As a leader in the Helena arts community, the Holter Museum is uniquely positioned to bring artists and students together to benefit creative expression and help teens use the arts to amplify their voices. Art for Survival is a free program open to all Helena teenagers.

- **MAPS Media Institute:** Since 2004, this Hamilton-based program has provided students a year-round five-day-per-week environment to explore their voice. The MAPS Media Institute is "committed to providing a rigorous, hands-on program designed to instill a lifelong passion for learning and to equip students with the skills and confidence for academic, social and professional success."

The fostering of creativity and communication skill-building is, in part, what led to MAPS being honored as one of the "Top 50" after-school programs in the U.S. by the President's Committee on the Arts and Human-

ties. To learn more, visit mapsmediainstitute.com.

Through CYD programs, young people are simultaneously developing their own creative output while addressing social problems in and around their communities, and in turn helping to build the communities they want to live in. Thanks to the Creative Youth Development National Partnership, a National Action Blueprint has been created to guide actionable strategies for nationwide growth of CYD. This dynamic document articulates a vision that "All young people will have equitable access to opportunities to develop their creative potential, to live richer, fuller lives and develop the critical learning and life skills they need to become active contributors to their communities."

To see the blueprint and learn more about the Creative Youth Development movement, visit creativeyouthdevelopment.org.

15

Humanities Montana temporarily suspends grants

Humanities Montana has entered a year focused on expanding development capacity and plans to relaunch their grants and programs during 2020. The state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities will therefore suspend regular, film and digital, three-year sustaining, and fellowship grants for fiscal year 2019 (Nov. 1, 2018–Oct. 31, 2019).

The organization will continue to offer Opportunity Grants (quick-action grants up to \$1,000) and will honor its already-approved three-year sustaining grants. The organization anticipates returning to regular grant-making in 2020.

Humanities Montana recognizes this suspension may cause inconvenience for partners and humanists around the state. Call Humanities Montana's staff at 406-243-6022 to discuss this temporary change and other possible funders for projects.

Visit humanitiesmontana.org for more information programs and services.

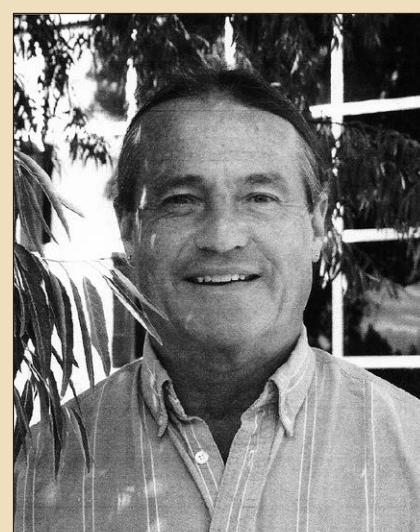
MONTANA POET LAUREATE

A Passing

A passing glacier carved these stone spires
and mounded these humpbacked foothills of scree.
Enough ice can chisel granite. Think about it,
Jeff says, shouting and breathless, couple switchbacks
above. I'm picking my way toward him
through boulders which must have shaken the horizon
wide-eyed when each great weight came crashing.

We are trekking, this indelible day, to the top
of our lives, though neither of us would have guessed
the downhill side could be waiting so nearby. Jeff,
it should be documented here, is the blossom of earth-blood
and star-shine. I am an equal marvel, so are all creatures,
even you.

Think about it. This planet, paradise born in a blast of hell-fire . . .
the two of us resting on a rock ledge, sharing
handfuls of walnuts and raisins, passing a canteen.
Clouds racing past so near we could almost hitch
a lift. Each of us en route to one summit or another.
The life-span of a gnat. Almost invisible. So small.



Montana Poet Laureate Lowell Jaeger is spearheading "Poetry 101: Poems Across the Big Sky," with the goal of bringing 101 poetry-related events to communities across the state during his tenure. Learn more at art.mt.gov/Portals/27/Poet%20Laureate%20



Film grants awarded by Humanities Montana

Humanities Montana awarded three grants this fall for film projects:

- Missoula film-makers **Ivan and Ivy MacDonald** received an \$8,000 grant to support their documentary, "When They Were Here." The film focuses on the missing and murdered indigenous women crisis within the state of Montana and will follow stories from the Crow and Blackfeet reservations: artproductions.com.

- **Perma Red LLC** was awarded \$8,000 to support the creation of a television series based on the Debra Magpie Earling novel. Funds will support pre-production archival research, cultural orientation, Salish script translation and script development: permafilm.com.

- **Futuro Media Group** received a \$7,940 film and digital media grant in support of a short documentary project about Jeannette Pickering Rankin. The project is part of UNLADYLIKE, a series of 31 animated documentary shorts created for Women's History Month, which will be released in March 2020.

The most prolific documentary event in the American West returns to Missoula Feb. 15-24. The 16th annual Bid Sky Documentary Film Festival showcases non-fiction films of all forms, genres, subject matter and lengths.

FILM CLIPS NEWS ABOUT FILM IN MONTANA

Montana movie magic from page to screen

By Allison Whitmer
Montana Film Commissioner

Have you ever finished a book and, absorbed with the written word that created beautiful images in your mind, thought it would make a great movie? Luckily for Montana, talented writers have laid the groundwork for some of our most beloved films.

In the classic "A River Runs Through It" directed by Robert Redford, the sun-dappled rivers and biting trout lay a shimmering veneer over a family that struggles to connect, and relationships built in youth that fray in adulthood.

The film crew transformed the main street of Livingston into 1920s Missoula, bringing the time between the wars back to life. The Oscar-winning cinematography, combined with the star power of Brad Pitt, put Montana on the map as a fly-fishing destination.

Norman Maclean wrote the three-story collection at age 70. The pain and aching loss, still fresh across the years, resonated with readers when it was published in 1976, and the collection was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize for Fiction the following year.

"The Horse Whisperer"

Robert Redford would return to the state for filming of "The Horse Whisperer" in 1996. Robert Richardson's majestic cinematography helped the film bring in more than \$175 million worldwide.

Set in the Boulder Valley south of Big Timber, the jagged peaks and green edges of the valley were the perfect setting for the story in which Redford's character, Tom Booker, helps a teenager and her horse recover from their injuries.

Inspired by the work of real-life horsemen, the debut novel of Nicholas Evans that inspired the film sold more than 15 million copies in 1995 and was one of the bestselling novels in the U.S. that year.



Michelle Williams in "Certain Women," based on Maile Meloy's short stories.

"Walking Out"

The snow-covered mountains and remote landscapes of David Quammen's short story, "Walking Out," bridge the uncomfortable silence between a divorced father and his son. Reconnecting on their annual hunting trip, every step into the mountains brings them closer to a decision that will change their lives forever.

Stepping away from his slick on-screen image in the "Magic Mike" films and aptly directed by the team of Alex and Andrew Smith, Matt Bomer delivers a commanding performance confronting the notion that strength can only be passed down through suffering.

Now known as a pre-eminent science writer, Quammen in the past 30 years also has published a few hundred pieces of short nonfiction in magazines such as National Geographic and Rolling Stone.

"Certain Women"

Reichardt's "Certain Women" follows small-town Montana women in a series of intersecting events. An all-star cast of Kristen Stewart, Michelle Williams, Lara Dern and the luminous Montana actress Lily Gladstone transform this film into a sublime example of

the director's art.

Based on Maile Meloy's short stories "Half in Love" and "Both Ways Is the Only Way I Want It," the film carefully examines facets of life in Montana.

"Winter in the Blood"

Pivoting to the plains of the Havre/Chinook/Harlem area, "Winter in The Blood" dissects a rough and tumble reservation community. The film adaptation is the second by the directing duo of Alex and Andrew Smith.

A leading light of the Native American Renaissance, James Welch was no stranger to the texture of hardship. He wrote piercingly of the alienation that affects Native Americans, and this novel specifically sets the protagonist against dislocation from his family, his social group and his memories.

"Wildlife"

The themes of landscape, alienation and contemplation come full circle in the debut feature from actor-turned-director Paul Dano. Working from Richard Ford's 1990 novel *Wildlife*, Dano directs Jake Gyllenhaal and Carey Mulligan in a tense drama of marriage, forest fires and adultery. For part of the film, Livingston doubles as Great Falls. "Wildlife" has been nominated for Spirit Awards in Cinematography, Best Actress and Best First Feature.

Ford has two films under his belt. He wrote the screenplay for "Bright Angel," also set in Montana and starring Bill Pullman. Considered a "master of the short story genre" by Paris Review, Ford spent years writing in Great Falls and now keeps a home in Billings. He has been the recipient of the PEN/Faulkner Award and the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction.

This is only a small selection of literary works turned into films. See the full filmography of made in Montana films at montanafilm.com.

Flathead Lake International Cinemafest comes to Polson

The weekend of Jan. 25-27, the Polson-based Flathead Lake International Cinemafest (FLIC) celebrates its seventh annual film festival with a strong slate of films and special guests. Over the years, FLIC has gained credibility as an international film festival destination. This year, more filmmakers than ever are joining the festivities in person.

Prior to screenings at the Showboat Cinema, FLIC kicks off with an informal gathering 4:30-6:30 p.m. Friday at the Cove Deli & Pizza in Polson, featuring complimentary food and optional menu items. During a break from 5:30-7 p.m. Saturday, the Vine & Tap Bar on Main Street offers complimentary hors d'oeuvres, with drinks available at the bar.

FLIC draws to a festive close Sunday with the Awards Show and dessert reception at 5:30 p.m. at the Showboat Cinema.



"Evolution of Dreams" is among FLIC's 2019 official selections. (Photo by Steven Pickel)

Special FLIC Guests:

- PBS stations across the nation are currently airing **Tim Ryan Rouillier's** symphonic memoir musical, "My Grandpa's Fiddle: The Soundtrack of My Life." Ryan, a native

of St. Ignatius, will share this one-hour screening of his concert with FLIC audiences at 7 and 8:30 p.m. Friday.

- **Adam Yenser**, a comedian and Emmy Award-winning writer for The Ellen DeGeneres Show, has written for the Oscars ceremony and been a freelance contributor to SNL's Weekend Update. Yenser shares his wit and cultural insights on Saturday evening.

- Great Falls native **Gerald R. Molen** has served as producer of a long list of top Hollywood films, including "Rain Man," "Jurassic Park," "Hook," "Minority Report," "Schindler's List" and many of others. He presents "Schindler's List" at 1 p.m.

Sunday, which is International Holocaust Remembrance Day, and then chairs an audience Q&A.

Visit FLICPolson.com for official selections, ticketing and general information.

Big Sky Documentary Film Festival screens up to 150 films

The most prolific documentary event in the American West returns to Missoula Feb. 15-24. The 16th annual Bid Sky Documentary Film Festival showcases non-fiction films of all forms, genres, subject matter and lengths.

Selected by *MovieMaker Magazine* as one of 2017's Top 50 Festivals Worth the Entry Fee, BSDFF is an Oscar-qualifying event for short documentaries and showcases a variety of world, U.S. and Northwest premieres.

The festival draws an audience of 20,000, hosts over 200 visiting artists, and presents an average of 150 non-fiction films. Events at the historic Wilma theater, the Roxy Theater, the MCT Center for the Performing Arts.

"We aim to cultivate value and impact for the documentary filmmaking community and nurture the art form for both creators and consumers of the medium," says BSDFF director Rachel Gregg.

A competitive event, Big Sky offers cash

awards for Best Documentary Feature, the Big Sky Award to the best film about the American West, Best Documentary Short and Best Mini Doc. The DocShop Filmmaker's Forum, a five-day conference during BSDFF, features industry influencers exploring the trends and ideas shaping the field of documentary filmmaking, and hosts the Big Sky Pitch.

Look for a schedule and more details at bigskyfilmfest.org.

MONTANA ON STAGE

Dance and diplomacy meet in Missoula Jan. 7-13

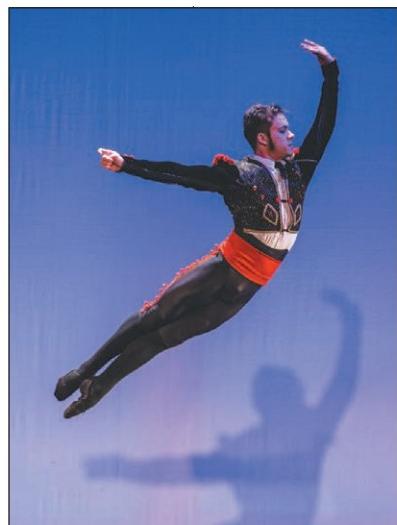
Rocky Mountain Ballet Theatre brings Ballet Beyond Borders (BBB), a unique combination of dance and diplomacy, back to Missoula in January. This marks the fourth world-class international dance competition and diplomacy conference that RMBT has brought to Missoula with competitors hailing from more than 17 countries.

Thanks to the generous support of the Washington Foundation and the Drollinger Family Foundation, the Ballet Beyond Borders International Dance Challenge will be free and open to the public.

The only ticketed event is the final gala on Jan. 13 at the Dennison Theatre on the University of Montana campus.

BBB brings films, authors, dancers, academics, artists, guests, and diplomats into the wintery west, introducing the world to Missoula and Missoula to the world in an effort to increase mutual understanding and global harmony.

Global superstars include Jorge Barani, a principal dancer from Cuba who will star



Jorge Barani, a principal dancer from Cuba, headlines the Ballet Beyond Borders Gala.

in the Ballet Beyond Borders Gala; and Patric Palkens, a principal dancer with Boston Ballet who is originally from Lewistown. Nations represented in the dance competition include Korea, Mexico, the Georgia Republic, China, Brazil, Romania, Canada, Italy, Pakistan and Israel.

"Rocky Mountain Ballet Theatre's mission is to give our dancers performance opportunities around the world, while also bringing the global community back to Montana," says Charlene Campbell Carey, artistic director for

Rocky Mountain Ballet Theatre and president of Ballet Beyond Borders. "These cultural exchanges are crucial to both our understanding and our positive participation in the global community."

2019 Highlights

- New this year:** Participants will have the opportunity to participate in the inaugural Ballet Beyond Borders Young Choreographer Competition.

- School Outreach:** International performers teach and perform Jan. 7-8 in the Missoula Public Schools and in Arlee in the lead-up to the opening night.

- The Silk Road Leads to BBB:** Opening night party and special performances, 6:30-9 p.m. Jan. 9 at the MASC Studio.

- International Dance Challenge:** dancers from more than 17 countries compete on the UM Campus Jan. 9-11.

- The Role of Arts in Global Society: Ballet Beyond Borders International Diplomacy Conference,** 9 a.m.-noon Jan. 12. Presentations include:

- Reflections on China:** Confucius Institute-sponsored performance and an intimate discussion explore the continuity provided by the arts from the Cultural Revolution to current times;

- "There is room for everyone,"** with Ballet Beyond Borders 2018 Peace Prize winner Sophie Rebecca; and

- "The Hidden Tears Project"** panel discussion with choreographer and filmmaker Jordan Marinov about human trafficking and ongoing issues related to missing and murdered indigenous women. BBB performers Kya Rae, Dede Rose and Clarissa Charlie will be on the panel.

- Ballet Beyond Borders Gala,** 6 p.m. Jan. 12 at the UM Dennison Theatre; information and tickets are available at rmbt.org.



17

Head to Argentina for Emerson's Celebration of the Arts

"Tango to Argentina" for The Emerson Center for the Arts and Culture's fourth annual Celebration of the Arts, Jan. 25 in the ballroom. Explore the rich cultural heritage of Argentina during an evening of dancing, entertainment, fine dining, quick-draw artists, and live and silent auctions.

An organization that brings professional artists to Montana communities and promotes education through the arts. Representatives from approximately 17 presenting organizations in Montana will attend the conference and select artists for their public performing arts series as well as for their educational community outreach programs.

The artist showcase and conference is made possible in part through a legislative grant from Montana's Cultural Trust, plus support from Montana Arts Council, National Endowment for the Arts, and Western States Arts Federation.

Additional conference information, registration materials, and the showcase schedule are online at www.mtpformingarts.org; call 916-798-4479 for details.

The exhibit, on display through the celebration, is a juried collection of original art donated by local and regional artists, and allows the center to honor and highlight artists who have contributed their works to the Emerson's most important fundraiser.

Also on display through Jan. 25: June Billings Safford, Kelsey Dzintars, Edd Enders and Noah Massey show works that exemplify the richness of Montana's cities in "Urban West"; and Livingston artist Edd Enders shares his interpretations of "Main Street Montana."

Visit www.theemerson.org.

MPAC hosts annual Artist Showcase and Conference in Great Falls

Seventeen professional performing artists will showcase samples of their work Saturday, Jan. 26, at the Mansfield Center for The Performing Arts in Great Falls. Part of the 36th annual Montana Performing Arts Consortium (MPAC) booking conference, the showcases are free and open to the public.

These 12-minute performances offer an opportunity to sample a wide variety of entertainment by some of the finest performing artists from across the U.S., Montana and the UK.

Selected 2019 Showcase artists include: Jessica Lynne, Mike Beck, Wylie Gustafson, The Gothard Sisters, Scott Kirby, Seffarine, Stringfever, Mari Black and Her World Fiddle Ensemble, Dennis Stroughmatt et L'Esprit Creole, Naomi Moon Siegel, Cascade Quartet,

pianist Jason Farnham, The Psychic Dynasty, Halie Loren, Tayo Aluko ("Call Mr. Robeson"), Maiah Wynne and John Roberts y Pan Blanco.

An MPAC jury chose these 17 artists based on standards of artistic excellence, and marketability in Montana. Additional artists will have booths in a resource room located in the Civic Center Missouri Room. The showcase is open to the public but entry to the resource room and other conference activities requires advance registration.

In addition to the showcases the artists will assemble for a jam session in the Darkhorse, downstairs at the Celtic Cowboy, at 9 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 26. The jam session is free to attend and open to the public.

MPAC is a statewide non-profit arts or-

ganization that brings professional artists to Montana communities and promotes education through the arts. Representatives from approximately 17 presenting organizations in Montana will attend the conference and select artists for their public performing arts series as well as for their educational community outreach programs.

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Montana Ballet Company premieres "The Little Mermaid"

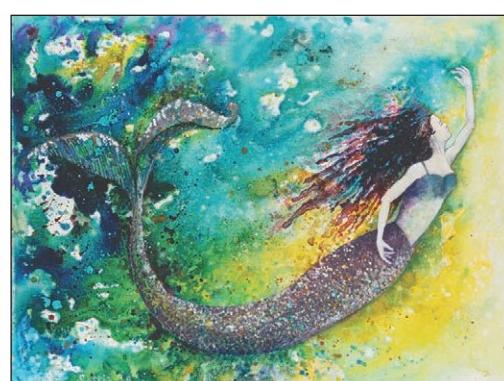
Montana Ballet Company (MBC) is staging the world premiere of "The Little Mermaid" Feb. 23-34 at the Willson Auditorium in Bozeman.

"The Little Mermaid" is a brand-new, original work inspired by the famous Hans Christian Andersen tale. Artistic Director Elizabeth DeFanti reinterprets the story, infusing messages of self-acceptance, self-truth, and empowerment.

"Our Mermaid Marina initially believes her truth and contentment are found outside of herself. Through an important journey, she realizes everything she needs for fulfillment is already within her," says DeFanti of the story.

She adds that she's been humbled by "the exceptional and talented artists who have gathered to create the ballet."

Upon hearing of DeFanti's version of the story, MBC Music Director Stefan Stern was inspired to compose an original orchestral



"The Little Mermaid" is an original ballet by Elizabeth DeFanti, based on the Hans Christian Andersen tale.

score that will be delivered by a group of local musicians and vocalists.

Also joining the team is Michael Hillenius, technical director of Willson Auditorium, who

is designing and executing new sets and creating lighting to portray magical worlds both under the sea and above. Newly crafted costumes from master costume designer Winthrop Corey and MBC costume mistress Melinda Delgado, Annette Piccirillo and Heidi Fry will embellish the production.

Artist Saskia Ewen Fox of Whole Art Inc. created Mermaid's original visual art, while Kristin Wimberg of Wimberg Productions has been filming "The Making of Mermaid" since the summer of 2018.

A cast of MBC dancers will bring "The Little Mermaid" to life, along with special guest artists Lily Loveland from Ballet Palm Beach and Steven Melendez from New York Theatre Ballet, who will dance the principal roles of Mermaid Marina and Prince.

Tickets are \$15-\$55 and available from the Montana Ballet Company at 406-582-8702 or online at www.montanaballet.org.

Theatre collaborative raising funds to stage "The Buffalo Play" in NYC and Missoula

BetweenTheLines Theatre (BTL) and MT + NYC Collaborative are raising funds for a new play that will premiere at the MASC Studio in Missoula April 5-21, before heading to New York City in early May for a three-week run at The Tank.

Written by Kendra Potter and Ciara Griffin, co-artistic directors of the Collaborative, "The Buffalo Play" is inspired by the real-life episode of tourists attempting to "rescue" a baby bison in

Yellowstone National Park by putting it in the back of their SUV in May 2016.

In the story an East Coast social justice worker grapples with the consequences of her well-meaning but misguided actions, which resulted in the death of a bison calf. When she finds herself held in a jail cell with a bison cow and local rancher as her cellmates she must reckon with her worldview and understanding of nature.

Three characters with drastically opposing worldviews come together to weather a storm in the timely piece, directed by BTL Artistic Director Mason Wagner and starring Griffin and Potter.

The group is continuing to raise funds for the cross-country production, and hopes to muster \$10,000 for production costs and panelists.

For details, visit betweenthelinestheatre.org or mtnycollaborative.org.



Statewide arts service organizations

Montana has many arts-disciplined-specific statewide service organizations. You can find a complete list here: art.mt.gov/arts_service_orgs

Montana Arts Council grants, awards & commissions

Visit the Montana Arts Council's website for a complete listing of grants, awards and commissions:

Individuals: art.mt.gov/grants_awards_comm_home#individuals

Organizations: art.mt.gov/grants_awards_comm_home#orgs

Schools: art.mt.gov/grants_awards_comm_home#schools

Programs and Services: art.mt.gov/programs_services_home



MONTANA'S CIRCLE OF AMERICAN MASTERS

Forging Forward: Bladesmiths Rick Dunkerley and Ed Caffrey

By Brian D'Ambrosio

Rick Dunkerley: *Damascus has a really organic nature, and that really goes together with Montana.*

Lincoln's Rick Dunkerley is fascinated by the flames of his forge and all of its twisting, searing possibilities. With more than 25 years of knife-making practice, the forge is more like an invitation from an old friend. What comes out of it still leaves him breathless.

"I provide a knife that will be passed down as a cherished family heirloom," said Dunkerley. "You hope that such a knife becomes an honored and loved piece of art. There is a large collector-base of the Civil -War era, and I feel like that is like what I'm making now, if taken care of and passed down."

Damascus steel is his favorite step of the bladesmithing process.

"I enjoy manipulating the patterns and controlling the pattern development," said Dunkerley. "There are multiple ways to accomplish that, bending steel a certain way. I am also looking at it three-dimensionally."

"I usually have a pretty good idea of what I want in a finished piece," he added. "I leave my mind open to what the materials seem to want to be, rather than always forcing my idea."

One of Dunkerley's recent blades featured a mosaic Damascus cut, basket-weave handles, fighting Irishman patterns, and a raised gold Celtic-cross inlay. He is fastidious on the details, producing approximately 40 knives a year – each infused with fresh ideas and concepts.

Damascus steel is made with a wavy surface pattern produced by hammer-welding strips of steel and iron, followed by continual heating and forging. Such items were often marketed, but not necessarily created, in Damascus, Syria.

"Except for the simplest hunting knives, I do not reproduce any of my knives," said Dunkerley. "All of my Damascus knives are one-of-a-kind and built only by me. Each Damascus knife is a single project and will never be replicated by me."

Dunkerley was born in Sharon, PA, and graduated from high school in Hermitage in 1977. He spent four years in the U.S. Air Force, stationed mostly at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas, where he trained guard, drug, and bomb-sniffing dogs.

He first started making knives in 1984 and, after moving to Lincoln in 1985, his interest in the craft increased. He made stainless steel hunters and utility knives until 1991, when he began forging carbon steel knives and fashioning Damascus steel. He celebrates his own uniqueness daily.

"The lifestyle here, being out in nature so much, it really opened it up for me," said Dunkerley. "Damascus has a really organic nature, and that really goes together with Montana."

Dunkerley joined the American Bladesmith Society in 1992. He has been a full-time knife maker since 1996, except for the 30 to 50 days each fall that he operates as an outfitter in Montana's Scapegoat Wilderness.

His artistry demonstrates spirit and resilience, which are two of the foundations of originality. He has earned many awards for his one-of-a-kind approach, including the "Best Handmade" in 1997, courtesy of *Blade Magazine*; Krause Publication's Wooden Sword Award in 2000; and the Oregon Knife Collectors Association's "Best Damascus" in 2001 and 2003. His knives have earned more

Bladesmith Ed Caffrey did not choose knifemaking; knifemaking chose him.

(Photo by Jim Wells)



Bladesmith Rick Dunkerley: *With more than 25 years of knifemaking, the forge is more like an invitation from an old friend.*

(Photo by Crystal Nance)

than 20 awards including "best hunter," "best bowie," "best folder," "best art knife," "best Damascus" and "best of show."

"Collectors respect it because they have some idea of the level of the work it takes to win an award at a particular show," said Dunkerley.

In 2002, he was chosen to serve on the board of directors of the American Bladesmith Society. At the 2007 Italian Knifemakers Guild Show in Milan, Italy, he was awarded the sobriquet of "maestro."

Dunkerley's knives have been featured in knife and art publications worldwide, including appearances on the covers of *Blade* and *Knives Illustrated* magazines. He shares his expertise in forging Damascus steel, instructing classes for entities including the Massachusetts College of Art, the Artist Blacksmith Association of North America, and the Western Canada Knifemaker's Symposium.

Nonetheless, Dunkerley said that bladesmithing is less about the accolades and more about the process. He said that his primary focus will continue to be Damascus steel, particularly mosaic and composite bar blades. He is currently specializing in Damascus folding knives and making Bowie and Persian-style straight knives.

Painstaking point by painstaking point, Dunkerley carries on his signature labor.

"It's funny because I will get visitors, and to them Damascus is fascinating," said Dunkerley. "To me it's repetition and hot, sweaty, and dirty work."

Ed Caffrey: *I've chased the dream of becoming a bladesmith, and I somehow caught it.*

Ed Caffrey began his knife making career, unwittingly, when he was 12 years old. Impeccable as his craftsmanship is, more remarkable still is that it exists at all. Caffrey did not choose knifemaking; knifemaking chose him.

"At 12, my best friend and I worked summers on farms, putting up hay, and saving our money to purchase new knives for the following trapping season," recalls Caffrey. "Once we acquired our new knives, we couldn't wait to put them to use. Our first catch that season was a 50-plus pound beaver. When skinning the beaver, my friend sharpened his knife four times, and I sharpened mine five. From that point, the search was on for a better knife."

Caffrey searched around the shop on his family's farm, scrounging for materials that he thought might form a first-rate knife.

"I even borrowed some of my grandmother's butcher knives, trying to find something better," said Caffrey.

At 18 years of age, he joined the U.S. Air Force, and shortly thereafter, married his wife,

Cindy. Before long, his curiosity in knives resurfaced. He gathered a few hand tools, and using a picnic table for a workbench, made a few crude knives from saw blades and other things that he thought might make a decent knife.

After a tour of duty in Europe he landed in Blytheville, AR, where he met his first two mentors, joined the American Bladesmith Society, and began his quest to become a full-fledge bladesmith.

His landlord allowed Caffrey to build a small shed – no more than 12 feet in length – on the property he was renting, and as his first shop took hold, so too began his forging career.

Caffrey's first knife sale came in 1989. He remembers the details with sincere intimacy.

"Up to that point, all the knives I had made were given to friends and family members," said Caffrey. "One late summer afternoon, a gentleman walked into my shop while I was working on a small wire Damascus hunter. He introduced himself and told me that a friend of mine had shown him a knife I'd made. We chatted as I was working on the hunter, and out of the blue, he said, 'I'll give you \$40 for that knife you're working on.'"

"I stammered out, 'What?,' and he repeated his offer." At that time, \$40 represented enough money to purchase handle and guard materials for six more knives.

"It is one of those things that propelled me to where I am," said Caffrey. "I took him up on the offer, and my career as a bladesmith began. Soon, I had half a dozen people wanting knives and it ballooned from there."

Caffrey transferred to Great Falls in 1992. After purchasing a house, his priority shifted to building a shop to better his bladesmith work. In 1994, he achieved his Journeyman-smith stamp and began teaching bladesmithing at hammer-ins (hands-on bladesmithing seminars), and in his shop. In 2000, he achieved his ABS Mastersmith rating (the highest rating for a knifemaker). He retired from the Air Force in 2003.

"I went from being full-time military, to a full-time bladesmith literally overnight," said Caffrey. "That was during the dark years, when there was little information sharing. These days, it's all more open and the knowledge and skill of the business is shared."

The real artistry is in Caffrey's diversity.

"I produce knives from working-grade field knives to high-end collector-grade pieces," said Caffrey. "The pieces include folders. Nearly everything I produce is forged, with mosaic Damascus being the current passion."

Having produced knives for nearly 20 years, experimenting with most every option and material available, Caffrey said that "the toughest, best-cutting knives" can only be produced through the proper forging and heat treatment of the preferred steel. He has high expectations for the steel he selects.

"I would rather not try to impress people by offering every type of blade steel under the sun," said Caffrey. "But I hate doing the same thing over and over."

His choice of material is often influenced by the current state of the market. He chooses steels that "possess the durability, toughness, as well as the ease of sharpening that are a must. This way I can constantly seek improvement without having to start over each time I produce a blade."

Caffrey also offers a wide variety of Damascus steel, from barstock for other knifemakers to exotic patterned mosaic pieces.

He teaches at hammer-ins and is available for individual classes in his shop. His commitment is admirable. The more he instructs, the more he gains knowledge of the craft, and the more he is grateful for his pursuit. Indeed, he still wears the smile of a 12 year old, its eternal sunshine.

"I have been blessed to teach all over the United States, Europe and Canada, and I have a lot of folks coming here," said Caffrey. "I've chased the dream of becoming a bladesmith, and I somehow caught it."

PUBLIC VALUE PARTNERSHIPS

Public Value Partnerships
Guidelines and application
info are available at
art.mt.gov.

The 3 Rs at work in Montana

Public Value Partnership grants between Montana nonprofit arts organizations and the Montana Arts Council champion the fact that the arts are of benefit to all the citizens of Montana and are worthy of state and federal investment.

Public Value Partnerships utilize three tools we call "The Three Rs" to expand the public value of the work being done by Montana's non-profit arts organizations:

- Building relationships;
- Creating greater relevance and meaning; and
- Establishing return on investment (measured both as economic vitality and impact on people's lives).

MAC believes that using "The Three Rs" strengthens participation, understanding and support from audiences, donors and funders. We'd like to share some of the best examples of these stories:



Helena Presents/The Myrna Loy: Art Transforms Everything brochure.

Building Relationships

Helena Presents/The Myrna Loy: The Myrna Loy is such a community-based organization, we try to maintain our relationships through a lot of different avenues. This year the most effective specific technique we used was taking individual supporters and community members out for coffee.

We targeted two or three meetings per month, all year long, with a variety of people who engage with The Myrna Loy in different ways: donors, business partners, collaborators, artists, teachers, the mayor, and a variety of community members – some of whom are not attendees of The Myrna Loy.

Small personal conversations allowed us to ask: What role does art play in your life? What can we do make your arts experiences more accessible, more rewarding, or more powerful? What's going on in your life, or your world, that art can help you unravel or understand more deeply? What are your concerns and your passions, and what role does art play in how you think about them?

And how can The Myrna Loy be a stronger, more effective culture center in the community, and better serve the people you know?

And to artists we are asking: What are your difficulties/obstacles? What do you need, and is there any way we can help? (Out of this question, The Myrna Loy in 2017 became fiscal sponsor for Helena Youth Orchestra and Helena Youth Chorus, to provide administrative assistance.)

All these conversations were deeply rewarding and informative and will feed our strategic plan going forward.

Creating Relevance

Art Mobile of Montana: We enjoy the personal contacts that we make through the art walks that we participate in. This past year we were in three art walks at Dancing Lotus Center in Helena; The Wheatgrass Art Gallery in Glasgow; and at the Southwest Montana Arts Center in Dillon.

At each of these sites, we enjoyed the contacts, and especially the opportunities to see a large variety of community members and visitors who came to enjoy our exhibit. These contacts bring comments, discussion, questions, and education about art

methods, techniques and artists. These events usually involve more adult-age individuals, and take place in the evenings, in addition to the programs we bring to regular school-age viewers throughout the school year.

We also offered an education class at MSU Billings, where our teaching artist Tess Fahlgren presented an art lesson and talked about how to relate to multiple school-age students.

Finally, in the home-school groups that we serve (this year in Glasgow and Dillon) we interact with multi-age groups, including the parents who bring their children to see the art and then participate in an art project. We note that the dual-age art lessons bring out a lot of fun for the families, who find that they enjoy making art, and doing it as a group.

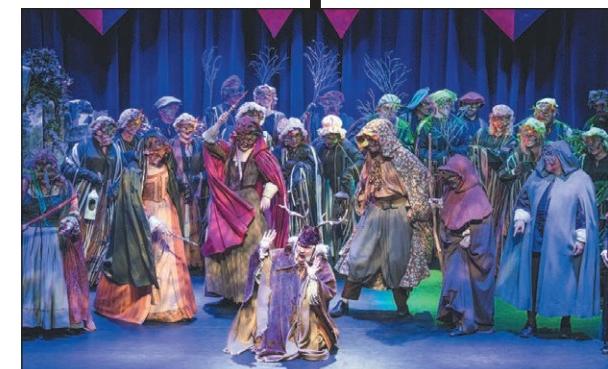
We ask each school and venue to invite community members to our venues, as long as the school approves, has space, and puts out the invitations. We strongly welcome parents, grandparents and any community member to come see the art. Especially in the remote areas of the state, this offers an entire community the opportunity to see our exhibit of original works by recognized Montana artists.

Return on Investment

Intermountain Opera Association: In the 2017-'18 season, Intermountain Opera Bozeman (IOB) added the equivalent of two full-time staff positions. Thanks to a grant from the MJ Murdock Charitable Trust, IOB was able to take this step to build the administrative infrastructure necessary to continue patron service and accommodate the growth of the organization from two productions to three full productions, along with the addition of year-around outreach programs.

This \$61,000 grant went directly toward wages of people who live in Bozeman. As the grant-cycle continues over the next two years, the grant amount will be absorbed by the operating budget of the organization. The budget growth will be a direct reflection of the increase in income due to the services IOB is able to provide because of the increased infrastructure.

Over the same fiscal year, \$100,750 dollars above and beyond the grant amount was paid to local individuals who were contracted to help with opera productions, i.e. orchestra musicians, chorus members, stage crew, bookkeeper and others. An additional \$82,000 went to local businesses whose support was used in a multitude of ways, including set and costume supplies, rent for facilities, storage, and offices, Montana PBS for airport video time, catering and hospitality services.



Strategic Investment Grants

Funding is currently available for grants of up to \$1,000 for nonprofit arts organizations, artists and arts educators. Deadlines are monthly.

For more information see art.mt.gov/sig or contact Kristin Han Burgoyne at kburgoyne@mt.gov or 406-444-6449.

Strategic Investment Grant Awards FY2018

The Montana Arts Council Strategic Investment Grants provide up to \$1,000 in matching funds to artists, nonprofit 501(c)(3) arts organizations and preschool-grade 12 teachers in Montana for:

- Professional Development: Grants to help build individual art skills and knowledge, arts careers and/or arts businesses.
- Market Expansion: Grants to help increase exposure and improve marketing or promotion, opportunities for exhibition,

performance and/or sales to a wider or new audience.

• Public Outreach Arts Activities: Grants for ongoing or one-time arts activities by arts organizations and/or artists that are designed to reach a new or expanded audience.

• Challenges and Emergencies: Grants to provide resources for artists or arts organizations experiencing challenges or emergencies that impede their ability to continue their work.

Organization/Individual	Application Title
Dawn Ahlert	Convergence 2018 Conference
Bitterroot Valley Chorus	Bitterroot Valley Chorus 2018 Annual Holiday Concerts
Bozeman Actors Theatre	Using Video and Social Media to Reach New Audiences
Liz Chappie Zoller	Expansion: Fine Art Shows
Sheri Cornett	For Freedoms 50 State Initiative Billings
Experimental Theatre Coop.	Last Chance New Play Fest
Flathead Celtic Festival	Flathead Celtic Festival
Emily Free Wilson	Pug Mill Purchase
Miles Glynn	Miles Glynn - Cowboy Christmas
Judith Cultural Committee	Okaidja Afroso
Lakebottom Sound	Lakebottom Sound Series presents Allison Miller's Boom Tic Boom
Candice Methe	A Kiln for Professional Development
MSMT Assoc/Cari Wilson	2018 MSMTA Conference
Mountain Time Arts	Cherry River, Where the Rivers Mix
Tarn Ream	Flying the spirits free: Ghana to Montana in music, dance and storytelling
Thomas Robison	The Art of the Strathspey: Breathing New Life into Old Traditions
Jane Waggoner Deschner	"Deliberate Misunderstandings: embroidered found photographs"
Sukha Worob	Mid America Print Council

City	Award
McAllister	\$1,000
Hamilton	\$1,000
Bozeman	\$1,000
Three Forks	\$1,000
Billings	\$361
Helena	\$1,000
Kalispell	\$1,000
Helena	\$1,000
Belgrade	\$1,000
Hobson	\$1,000
Missoula	\$1,000
Red Lodge	\$1,000
Missoula	\$1,000
Bozeman	\$1,000
Missoula	\$1,000
Bozeman	\$425
Billings	\$1,000
Bozeman	\$625

Intermountain Opera Bozeman: IOB staged "Falstaff" last May.

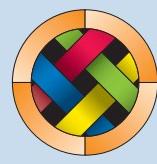
(Photo by Bruce and Kimberlie Jodar)



19

INSIDE STATE OF THE ARTS

- 1 Governor's Arts Awards; Cinda Heads Into Retirement; Blackfeet Artist Draws on Tradition for Blanket Design
- 2 Montana Legislature Convenes; Passage of a Bill
- 3-4 Congrats, Transitions, Condolences
- 5-7 Governor's Arts Awards
- 8 MAM's Internship Program for Minority Students; Blackfeet Artist Draws On Tradition (cont.)
- 9-11 About Music; About Books
- 12 Governor's Arts Awards (cont.); MAM Benefit Auction; YAM Auctions; The Russell Auction
- 13 About Visual Artists
- 14 Grantee Spotlight: Livingston Jazz Festival; Student Voices Find Expression; Artists in Schools and Communities Grant Cycle Opens
- 15 Governor's Humanities Awards; Student Voices Find Expression (cont.); Montana Poet Laureate
- 16 Montana Movie Magic From Page to Screen; Flathead Lake International Cinemafest; Big Sky Documentary Film Fest
- 17 Dance Meets Diplomacy; MPAC Artist Showcase and Conference; The Little Mermaid Premiere; The Buffalo Play
- 18 Forging Forward: Bladesmiths Rick Dunkerley and Ed Caffrey
- 19 The Three Rs in Montana; SIG Grants



STATE OF THE Arts



Board and staff of the Missoula Writing Collaborative wraps up The Art of Leadership board development work with Cinda Holt. Participants include (left to right): David Cates, Nick Littman, Leland Buck, Barbara Sims, Crista Anderson, Rose Dickson, Patsy O'Keefe, Sheryl Noethe, Cynthia Manning, Caroline Patterson and Rebecca Dettman.

(Photo by Cinda Holt)

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MAILING ADDRESS:
PO BOX 202201, HELENA, MT 59620-2201
STREET ADDRESS:
830 N. WARREN ST., HELENA, MT
V: 406-444-6430; T:711
Fax 406-444-6548
website: art.mt.gov
email: mac@mt.gov

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Cynthia Andrus, Chairman
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JP Gabriel
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Lynne Montague
Arlene Parisot
Jay Pyette
Jean Steele
Renée Westlake

All Montana Arts Council members can be reached by email at mac@mt.gov or by mail c/o Montana Arts Council, 830 N. Warren Street, Helena, Mt. 59620

MAC Staff

Tatiana Gant, Executive Director
tatiana.gant@mt.gov • 406-444-6430
Jenifer Alger, Chief Financial Officer
jenifer.alger@mt.gov • 406-444-6489
Kristin Han Burgoyne, Database & Grants Director,
Accessibility Coordinator
kburgoyne@mt.gov • 406-444-6449
Monica Grable, Arts Education Director
monica.grable@mt.gov • 406-444-6522
Czelsi Kozak, Administrative & Media Specialist
ckozak@mt.gov • 406-444-4700

Governor's Arts Awards Celebration & Profiles

Pages 1, 5-7 and 12

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